

THE
MEMOIRS

OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.



THE
M E M O I R S
O F
Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

BY
Mrs. ELIZABETH STEELE.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

V O L. II.

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OF

Mrs. Sophia Boddock

LATE OF DUBLIN LANE THEATRE.



Mrs. ELIZABETH STELL

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOL. II.

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THE MEMOIRS

OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

I DO not know the reason, but Lord Melbourne was not so lavish now of his money, as he had been. His own expences might occasion it; but, be that as it would, the truth is, he never mentioned the article of money again, for three weeks, and when he did, it was only that he would let me have some shortly. I then told his Lordship, I hoped he would.

"Why?" says he, "Mrs. Steele, can you
 "want money?" I replied, "I did," and on
 this asking how much? I made no answer, and
 his Lordship said, I should have some next week.
 I was quite out of spirits on the occasion, but
 Mrs. Baddeley said, "Don't make yourself un-
 "easy, I can find a way to pay these debts, if
 "you will agree to it:" and on enquiring
 how, she said, "His Grace the Duke of Nor-
 "thumberland had made her great offers, and
 "it was only her consenting to his wishes, and
 "she should be out of all this trouble." I told
 her, I would never consent to her paying her
 debts that way; as it was doing more evil, and
 running head-long into perdition; that if her
 mind was that way turned, I never would for-
 give her. She then asked me how she should
 act; I told her, a little time, with prudence,
 would put an end to this difficulty; that I
 would part with the last shilling to help her; and
 as her creditors were not very troublesome, I
 hoped to bring things round. Though my
 heart felt much at this time, I carried it off as
 well as I could, that I might not add to her un-
 easiness. It had a good effect, and kept her for a
 little time within bounds; yet occasionally she
 would want this thing, and the other, which in
 fact she had no occasion for, and which I put a
 stop

stop to, by reminding her of her present embarrassment.

The Duke of Northumberland, as if he had private intelligence of our necessity, sent again to renew his former offers.

The same gentleman, who applied to Mrs. Baddeley in Hyde-park, now came to Grafton-street, and begged to see her, in order to deliver a note he had brought from Northumberland-house into her own hands. This surprized her, and she said, "What shall I do? I had better see him."—"By no means," says I. For, knowing her sentiments, I dreaded the consequence; so I went down and told him Mrs. Baddeley was much indisposed, and could not do herself the pleasure of waiting on him; but if he would intrust me with the note, I would certainly deliver it, and an answer should be sent. His reply was, the contents of the note could not be answered without his having an interview, as his Grace did not choose to write all he had, in command, to inform her of; and that if I would name the time when he could see Mrs. Baddeley, he would wait on her at that time. Now, so anxious was she in this business, that she came to listen to what the

gentleman said; and on hearing him say, he would come at some other time, she sent her servant to beg to speak to me, and I desired the gentleman would wait till my return, which he readily agreed to. On my entering her room, she said, "Mrs. Steele, don't let him go; sure you must be mad? At a time when we are so much involved. This is a fine opportunity to extricate myself out of every difficulty. For his Grace is a liberal and a generous man." "Yes," replied I, "and what reward does he require?—Such a one, that if you agree to, I will not put up with. I have already suffered much by your imprudence in this way, and I am convinced his Grace will never bestow his bounty, where he cannot be gratified in return." This she declared he never should. All she wished, was to see the note and the gentleman; accordingly, in opposition to me, he was desired to walk up to the drawing-room; and, as I was much displeased, I left them to themselves. She saw him, and when he was gone, began to acquaint me with the result of his visit, which, at first, I would neither hear nor listen to; but on further intreaties I complied. She first gave me the note, and begged me to read it; it's contents were as follow:

"The

“The Duke of Northumberland presents
“his compliments to Mrs. Baddeley, and
“has sent a gentleman to communicate some-
“thing of consequence to her.”

“Wednesday morning,

“eleven o’clock.”

She then told me that his Grace had offered her his protection for life, with the payment of all her debts, if she owed any; with any sum of money she might name, provided she would live with him, and see no other person whatever: that she might either live in his house, or any other she liked, on condition she admitted no other visitor than him; that he would allow her fifteen hundred pounds a year, and if she was faithful to him, would think of a settlement. She said, that after hearing this gentleman out, she gave him to understand, that her situation was such, as put it out of her power to comply with his Grace’s wishes; that she had at present a noble benefactor, to whom she was bound in gratitude to live with, and that if his Grace’s offers were ten times as great, as he had now mentioned, she could not accept them. The gentleman spoke much

in praise of his noble friend, and said his bounty would not be bounded by what he had said, but she would find him liberal in the extreme; "on which I replied," continued she, "that his Grace did not propose a settlement, until he saw the propriety of my conduct; which is far from a liberal offer." This he returned, would be no obstacle to his Grace, if my answer was satisfactory; for that his Grace's esteem and regard for me was such, as would make him happy to gratify me. However, says she, I gave him no hopes, considering with myself how much more noble Lord Melbourne's bounty had been to me, than his Grace's proposals amounted to. "And though," adds she, "my imprudence urged me to see this gentleman, to learn how far I could extricate myself from my present embarrassment, I assure you I gave him a denial." I told her I thought she acted right; and she thought so too, as she would not offend me, she said, for the world. "Offending me," replied I, "is nonsense. Lord Melbourne's generosity should not be abused, and though his unfortunate attachment to you, (for he being a married man, I call it unfortunate) has been winked at by me, as it took place when I could not avoid it; so has it continued under the
" same

"same necessity; but there is no reason why
 "you should add sin to sin, and fill up the
 "measure of your iniquities." "Good God!"
 said I to myself; "the Duchess of Northum-
 "berland is still living—How wicked is this
 "fashionable world!—To me all this is dread-
 "ful.—But like all other bad things, they
 "become familiar at last; and we think no-
 "thing of them.—Lord Melbourne never
 "comes to this house; but I feel myself hurt
 "on account of his Lady and the improp-
 "riety of his visits; are quite sufficient with-
 "out the addition of any more. Besides,"
 continues I, "you see how much more liberal
 "Lord Melbourne has been than any pro-
 "posals made by the Duke of Northumberland."
 "Was you to accept his Grace's offer, you
 "must have pursued a very different conduct
 "as his yearly allowance would not last you
 "three months." as has said and so I thought
 The Duke, however, did not end his appli-
 cation here; for in the evening this gentleman
 returned, and Lord Melbourne being then with
 her, I told him, as he had received his answer
 in the morning, that any thing he had further
 to say upon the subject, could not be of any
 consequence. He assured me it was, and as

such he must acquaint her with it, or he might gain his Grace's displeasure; and that as Mrs. Baddeley had said, she would see him whenever he called, he pressed me to let her know it. I told him she was then engaged with her friend, and to see her was impossible. That "friend's name," replied the gentleman, "she has made me acquainted with;" of course, he supposed Lord Melbourne was with her: to this I said, "it is of little consequence, who is with her?" (for I was short, she should have mentioned his name,) "do you call not see her?"

I was convinced, however, that she had deceived me, in respect to what passed between this gentleman and her in the morning. I would have changed the subject, but he kept up to his text, said, it would be Mrs. Baddeley's interest to see him, and as she was engaged now, he would call on her the next day, and was sure he should be admitted to her, if she was acquainted with his being there. I told him she should be informed of it, and he took his leave.

Lord Melbourne soon went, and then Mrs. Baddeley said, "Has any one been here?"

“ My dear Mrs. Steele, has the Duke sent
“ again ?” “ Did you expect him,” return
I, “ to send again after your denial ?”—
“ No,” says she, “ but persons of his rank
“ and fortune, never drop a pursuit so easi-
“ ly.” I told her, I hoped she had not given
him the name of her friend. Her reply was,
that he himself had mentioned it, and she did
not contradict it. “ I am sorry,” replied I,
“ for this ; you should have denied it.” That
would have been of little use, she said, for
through Mr. Hanger, and one person or the
other, it was very well known. I then told
her, this gentleman from the Duke, had been
with me again, and I was at a loss to know
what he could want now. With this she
was highly pleased, and said, “ You did
“ not, I hope, say, that I would not
“ see him ? Will he be here again ?”
“ O fie Sophy,” says I, “ if you had told
“ him in the morning, as you declared to
“ me you had, you would not want to see
“ him again.” She replied, she only wished
to hear what new offers he had to make ;
and on my saying, he would be with her
again to-morrow ; she said, she must and
would see him ; that it should be for the last

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time, for when she had heard all he had to offer, she would forbid his coming any more.

The gentleman came again the next morning, and was shewn up into the drawing-room; he was with Mrs. Baddeley near two hours, and on his leaving her, I heard her say, in a low voice, "God bless you! let me see you to-morrow." She ran to me full of his Grace's offers, and his new proposals, which were as follow:—That his Grace wished her not to be ungrateful to her present benefactor, who, he found, had acted so nobly by her.—"Stop," said I, "how came he to know how nobly he had acted?" She replied, "I have told him, not mentioning his name."—I let her go on.—That his Grace proposed calling to see her twice a week, and that at times when he found Lord Melbourne was not with her; that on his first visit to tea, he would give her five hundred pounds, and would then tell her himself his whole mind on the subject; that his Grace would discharge all her debts, and be her friend for life: that the gentleman mentioned a Miss Ash, whom his Grace had been kind to for many years; that

that his liberality and bounty to her, was not to be described; that he was a man not like the fashionable world in general, but steady in his attachments, unless he had cause to the contrary; and that he would do any thing for her, she might desire of him.—I listened to this with all the patience I was mistress of, and she ran on with his promises so much that it would tire my reader to relate it. In short, she told me, she gave the gentleman this answer, that she would consider of his proposals, and give him her determination the next day. “And why,” says I, “did you not give him a positive denial then?” “Because,” returned she, “I wished to consult you first.” I told her she knew my sentiments on the subject, and she might assure herself they would not alter, if the Duke had offered her his whole fortune. “Well,” says she, “suppose we admit him to drink tea?” “That would only lead on to further evils,” replied I, “and I am determined he shall not come.”—“Good God,” says she, “I can have five hundred pounds for nothing.”—“Certainly,” replied I, laughing at her, “for nothing! Mankind are too fond of their money to bestow it, but in return for
“favours

"favours received." "Surely, my dear
 "Steele," says she, "you are not serious;
 "I have partly promised to receive him at
 "tea to-morrow." At this I lost my tem-
 per, and said, "you may act as you please,
 "but you must invite him to some other
 "house; for he certainly shall not come
 "here: if he does, as soon as he enters the
 "house I will affront him, and I would do
 "the same, if he was King of England." She was much displeased at this, said, "I
 "might suffer her to get out of her embar-
 "rassments, before I put her under such re-
 "straint." I replied, "her embarrassments
 "were owing to her own folly, and now
 "she wished to commit greater, in hopes
 "of getting out of them; that if she had pa-
 "tience, Lord Melbourne would pay the whole
 "and she had nothing to do but to act
 "differently in future." She then said, "if
 "I would not suffer his Grace to come
 "there, she would meet him at some other
 "place." "If this be your determination,"
 replied I, "you shall abide by the consequence,
 "for I will never countenance such conduct." In short, I could do nothing with her; she was
 fully bent on seeing the Duke, but took great
 pains to convince me of the innocence of her
 intentions,

intentions, and urge me to a compliance ; but I was resolute, and would not consent.

The next morning this gentleman came again, and she watched his coming, thinking I might send him away without her seeing him ; she saw him, and what passed between them, I did not know at the time, for she ordered the coach, and they went off together. She was gone four hours and more, and on her return, after begging my pardon, she requested me to listen to what she had to say ; for as she had been doing no ill, I might attend to her with propriety, and she would tell me with truth, every thing that passed. On my saying I would hear nothing from her, she vowed she would take another bottle of laudanum, which she had in her Pocket. Knowing she had done so in the affair of Mr. Hanger, I was alarmed, and thinking, whilst she was out, she might have provided some, I judged it best to hear her. She then told me, as I was so resolute as not to admit of the Duke's coming to the house, she acquainted the gentleman with it, and he prevailed on her to go with him, as far as Northumberland-street, that he might acquaint his Grace with the cause that she could not see him at home, saying
he

he would not detain her there ten minutes. She went to Northumberland-street, where the coach stopped and waited his return, when he begged the favour of her to go with him into Privy-garden, just by Lord Pembroke's, where he would acquaint her with what his Grace had said. She supposed this was to prevent any of the Duke's servants seeing her. When he returned he got into the coach, but did not say more, than that his Grace was very much hurt, at my refusing him to come to my house. On reaching Privy-garden he directed the coachman where to stop, saying, that place was the least noticed. In a few minutes came the Duke, wrapped up in a great coat, with a handkerchief up to his face, and, getting into the coach, ordered the gentleman to go home, and wait for him. He, in a very polite manner, begged her pardon, she said, for the intrusion, but finding the Lady at whose house she was at, averse to his seeing her there, he was willing to embrace that opportunity, to declare his sentiments, and said; "Will you
" permit your coachman to drive on, for a
" ride, to Chelsea, through the King's-road;" and begged the silk curtains might be let down. That she ordered her coachman to drive the road the Duke wished, and that in the way, he

he said a thousand civil things to her ; and that she thought him a very good man ; this was her expression. That telling his Grace she had a house at Hammersmith, he wished to see it ; that accordingly they went and continued there about an hour and a half ; that he pressed for favours, but had not a wish for more than was really consistent for her to grant. That he offered her every thing her heart could wish, and said, how sorry he was I was so much averse to his happiness, that he wished to know how he had offended me ; that she told his Grace, I had no other motive for my refusal, than the impropriety of her conduct ; that I wished her to avoid all men in general, but that since I had imprudently entered into a connexion with one man, it would be a breach of faith, and the highest ingratitude, to listen to the proposals of any other ; that his Grace said, if these were my motives, he honoured me for them, and could not be angry with me ; that was he the happy Lord that enjoyed her favours, how much should he value me : on this he took out a glove, and begged her to ask me to try it on ; and if I liked it, to keep it and remember, that it was a present from him. She gave me this glove, it was a new one, and I threw it down, saying, I would not accept it. She said do, pray

pray take it, there is something in it, but which she had not looked at. Finding I would not take it up, she stooped for it, and pulled out from it three bank-notes of one hundred pounds each.—“ They are,” says I, “ the price of your infamy, and you may keep them yourself; I will have nothing to do with them; you are the proper person to enjoy them, if they will afford you any enjoyment.” She said, if I did not take them, she would throw them into the fire, and, on my refusing them, actually did, and it was at the risk of my hands, that I rescued them from the flames. I then put them into a drawer, and locked it, saying, it was not times to destroy such a sum; she declared her innocence with the Duke; confessed she had given him hopes of favours, and said, she might have had from him, any sum she thought proper to accept; that she refused all his offers, but had promised to meet him again on Thursday at Hammer-smith house, and was determined she would.

When she had done, I sent off a servant for one of her milliners, to whom she owed near six hundred pounds, Price, of Tavistock-street, and paid him the three hundred pounds, which she said his Grace sent me as a present in the glove,

glove, and gave her his receipt, telling her I was happy so far in convincing her, that the money was properly applied to her own use, as it was she that deserved it, and not me. At this, she exclaimed, "Oh! Mrs. Steele, what a good heart you have! Shall I ever live to make you amends?" I replied, there was none due or expected; that I had not a shadow of claim to the money, nor would I on the score it was given, take a present from any man; that I despised such meanneſſes, and that if I received a hundred thousand pounds, in a ſimilar way, I would either return it, or apply it to her uſe. She ſolemnly aſſured me his grace gave it with no improper view, and did it, in ſo delicate a way, than any woman might have accepted it; that he begged pardon for ſending ſo trifling a thing as a glove; but, that as it was one he had worn, and as ſhe would not permit him to preſent her his hand, he hoped ſhe would accept his glove as its repreſentative.

About this time Mr. Foote brought out a new piece, at the little Theatre in the Hay-market, called, the *Maid of Bath*, alluding to Miſs Linley, now Mrs. Sheridan: and, prior to its firſt appearance, he called on us, and requeſted we

would

would accept of a box for the night, which should be at our service, for us and our friends, and hoped we would make a point of being there, in order to grace (as he was pleased to say) his Theatre. The box reserved for us was next to the stage-box, that commanded a view of the whole house, and we went. Mr. Foote performed in this play himself; it went off with great success, and was well received by a crowded house. About the middle of the piece, where Mr. Foote enlarged much on the beauty of the Maid of Bath, he added, "Not even the beauty of the nine Muses, nor even that of the divine Baddley herself, who there sits, (pointing to the box where we sat) if it could exceed that of the Maid of Bath." This drew a thunder of applause from all parts of the house; he was encor'd, and Mrs. Foote repeated the words three times. Every eye was on Mrs. Baddley, and I do not recollect ever seeing her so confus'd before. She rose from her seat, and curtsied to the audience, and it was near a quarter of an hour before she could discontinue her obeisance, the plaudits lasting so long. This trick of Mr. Foote's put her so much to the blush, that the colour did not leave her face the whole evening. Mrs. Baddley's face, was not, according to the fashion, of modern beauties,

beauties, made up by art, for she never used any rouge but on the stage; which all the performers, men and women, are obliged to do, owing to the livid paleness which the lights in front cast upon the face.

Having occasion to go out to see a daughter of mine, who was then at school, sick, Mrs. Baddeley complained of a head-ach, and said, she would lie down; desiring me to call at her milliner's and other places, for necessities which she wanted. I was also obliged to stay longer than I intended, as finding my child ill, I fetched Doctor Elliot to attend her.

On my return home, I went up stairs gently, expecting to find Mrs. Baddeley asleep; but, hearing a noise above, I listened, and heard her laugh immoderately, which she always did at any mischief that was going forward.

On entering the room, I told her I was happy to find her head-ach gone, and wished to know what made her so chearful, that I might partake of it. At this she laughed the more, and said, "My dear Steele, as you staid so long, I was coming after you in a chair, and have ordered my

“ my servant to fetch one ; do send down and
“ prevent it.”

Mrs. Baddeley then went to the glass, and bad her maid stand by her ; then viewing herself, she said to her maid, “ I cannot think why the
“ world should so much admire my sister ; to
“ be sure she’s handsome ; but my face is as
“ handsome as her’s, and more so ; is it not
“ Fanny ?” The maid replied, “ Yes, Miss,
“ indeed you are much handsomer than her
“ Ladyship ;” and then Mrs. Baddeley laughed again. “ Well,” said I, “ proceed, I
“ hear you with pleasure.” She went up to the glass again, strutting and viewing herself as before, and saying, “ Well, the world can but
“ admire me ; and if I am not so tall as my
“ sister, they can only say, there goes a *Lump*
“ of Beauty.”

On my enquiring into all this nonsense, she said, a gentleman had been with her in my absence, and had told her this little story of Lady Archer’s sister.

The lady that is always seen with Lady Archer is her sister. They are the daughters of Mr. West, who lived in the great house in
King-

King-street, Covent-garden, now known by the name of Lowe's Hotel. "The gentleman, who has been here," said she, "has been entertaining me with the manner in which he entered into high life; saying, this Miss West, who called herself the *Lump of Beauty*, in the manner I have represented it before the glass, fell in love with him; that till this accident happened, he had no expectations, but to wear a pen behind his ear all his life." "Who is this gentleman," said I, interrupting her?—"Hear his history first," says she, "and then I'll tell you.—That he was the second son of a West-India merchant, living in, or near Golden-square; that he was placed at a counting-house in the city, and had been there some time; that accident made him acquainted with this Lump of Beauty, who introduced him to her sister, Lady Archer, and her husband."

"This introduction into high life unsettled his mind to the counting-house, according to his own declaration, and made him pine for better company than his situation in life entitled him to; that he then began to study dress and fashionable manners, and, being a personable man and well educated, through
" Lord

“ Lord Archer’s family, he got introduced to
 “ other persons of rank, supporting his ex-
 “ pences by play, at which he was very fortu-
 “ nate.”

“ Why don’t you tell me his name ?” said
 I, with impatience. “ Softly,” returned she,
 “ and you shall know it. — This gentleman,
 “ who has just been here in your absence,
 “ waited on this Lump of Beauty for some
 “ time, and, through her, became a member of
 “ the ladies club, and was admitted at Almack’s,
 “ at Boodle’s, at Gooltreys, and all the gam-
 “ ing-houses in town ; where he had such a
 “ run of luck, as to enable him to keep a vis-a-
 “ vis, and live as a man of fortune.” — “ Well,
 “ then,” returned I, “ at best, you can only
 “ call him a gambler, and he may in one night
 “ be as wretched, as he is now happy.” “ Oh,”
 replies she, “ he has wit at will to direct him,
 “ and has been prudent, and taken care of
 “ his money. This gentleman,” says she,
 “ as he was passing the end of Grafton-street,
 “ seeing you go out without me, came in and
 “ told my maid, for John was out, that he must
 “ see me, on very particular business. The
 “ girl said I was ill, but asked him in, and said
 “ she would go and acquaint me. He followed
 “ her

"her up flily, and came into my room."
 "And who was this insolent man?" says I,
 with a degree of warmth. "Only," says she,
 curtsying and laughing, "Mr. Thomas Sto-
 rer." Vexed beyond measure, and to be
 laughed at, I replied, "Had I known his name
 sooner, I should not have attended to his his-
 tory." "Was you up?" "No," says
 she, "and I had enough to do to keep him
 from me. But Fanny went down stairs,
 and called Betty the laundry-maid, who
 would put on her cap before he would ap-
 pear, she said; before any gentleman; and
 then, when her cap was on, and Susan the
 kitchen-maid had been up into the garret, to
 put on a clean apron, they all met, and set-
 tling the matter between themselves, came
 at last into my room, and with great difficul-
 ty got him away into another room."
 "Why," says I, "they were a long time a-
 bout it. Why did you not ring the bell?"
 "Oh," says she, laughing, "the wicked man
 had me too fast in his arms for that; how-
 ever, he left me at last, and I got up. He
 then apologized for coming on me so ab-
 ruptly, and did it in such a winning way,
 that I could not for my soul be angry, but
 gave him a kiss and forgave him." I lost all
 patience

patience with her on this recital, and told her, that her exposing herself to her servants was worse than all. She told me, she could no way help it. I was very angry with her, but it answered no purpose. Thus, was she laughing at me the whole time; for Fanny had been privy to this meeting, and the noise I heard on going up stairs, was no other than his flying out of her chamber; and, during the time she was relating his history, he slipped off. She was at this time in so tittering a mood, and so full of her fun, calling herself the Lump of Beauty, that I found it was no time to talk to her; but, determined to discharge Fanny, and tell her my mind, at a more seasonable opportunity. She then said, she had seen another gentleman, and she was afraid Mr. Storer had heard what he said. This was the Duke of Northumberland's friend, that came with a most polite message from his Grace, requesting the favour of a meeting at Hammer-smith that evening, at six. She asked me to accompany her, and on my saying I would not, replied, she would then go by herself. I told her, I was unhappy at seeing it; she replied, that her intentions were innocent, and that she should go for the last time, merely to acquaint his Grace, she could admit of his visits no longer; "For," continues she, "a man of his rank

“rank and situation in life should be treated “with respect;” that he was a gentleman of too good a character to put an improper construction on her meeting him; that no harm could arise from a reserved interview; that he could not *eat* her, (these were her words) and that as he had always behaved with the greatest politeness and attention to her, she would not be wanting in civility on her part. I told her she was mistress of her own actions; that I wished not to exercise any authority over her; that what I said was out of pure friendship and regard, and that as I found my friendly advice was not taken, I should in future not attempt to give it; that she seemed totally to forget her benefactor Lord Melbourne, and the injury she had already done his Lady: and was now seeking for an opportunity of disturbing the peace of another family.

In the afternoon she ordered the coach, and went to Hammersmith alone. In her absence came Lord Melbourne, I told him Mrs. Baddeley was out. “Out!” exclaimed he, “and without you!—How is this?” I told his Lordship I was not very well, and could not go with her; —“Where is she gone?” says he, —To Hammersmith I told him for a ride, and to give some

directions about the house.—He replied, he had left his lady at the play-house, and must return to her immediately; and therefore after a little conversation left me.

Mrs. Baddeley did not come home till twelve o'clock, and when she came, was in high glee and spirits; begged my pardon for being so long absent, but said she could not avoid it, and that I should not be displeased when I heard all. “I have never” continued she, “experienced so much, as since I left you.”—I told her I was not in spirits to attend to her, and wished to go to bed. She was the same way disposed, and we went up together. “Now,” says she, “my ever dear, dear Mrs. Steele, let me tell you all that has past,”—and on my saying to-morrow would be time enough, she replied, “if you do not hear me now, I shall not be able to sleep.” My silence giving consent, she began with saying, the Duke was at Hammer-smith before her, that he handed her from her carriage.—that they drank tea,—and that during tea,—he launched forth a great deal in her praise; and expressed his love and esteem for her, in the warmest terms, and that he ran on two hours, using all the arguments he was master of, to gain her compliance with his wishes,

but that she was not to be won ; that he offered her any part of his fortune ; that when he found words would not avail, he took her in his arms ; vowed he loved no woman on earth but her ; that if she persisted in her non-compliance, he must—and there he stopped.—Must ?—What ? said she,—“ I must,” returned he,—“ be unhappy ;” that he held her fast in his arms an hour, and that she begged him repeatedly to let her go—and he would not. “ How then,” said she, “ my dear friend, did I wish to be “ with you ! I never till that moment, was “ sensible of my imprudence, and how little “ dependence there is in any man ; for I was “ then aware of his determination, and his offers I disregarded, as dross.” “ In short,” said she, much against my will, he led me to “ my chamber ; I found my resolution give “ way, and I did, what I now repent of.”

She cried much, as she gave me this relation, and said, he would have given her bank-notes, to a great amount, but that she was so angry with herself, for what she had done, and his improper treatment of her, that she would not take them ;—that he said, he would inclose them in a letter, and send them to her next day.—“ I am now glad,” replied I, “ that you see

“ for once the impropriety of your conduct.
“ Had you taken my advice, you would not
“ have put yourself in his power, and, conse-
“ quently, would not have met with the ill u-
“ sage you mention, and which you richly de-
“ serve.—You see how far mankind is to be re-
“ lied on; be they of what rank they will.
“ But, with all the ill treatment, you say you
“ now met with, and the tears it has cost you,
“ I find you returned home full of spirits, as if
“ nothing had happened.” These were affected
spirits, she said, lest I would not give her a pa-
tient hearing, and that the servants might not
make remarks.—She then begged I would for-
give her, saying, she would never act in oppo-
sition to my advice in future; and I promised so
to do, on condition she would discharge her
maid, for being instrumental to Mr. Storer’s
seeing her in the morning, for that I was per-
suaded she had taken money of him, to admit
him. She believed it herself, and thought she
went to Mr. Storer’s lodgings, and gave him
intelligence of my being out; for Mr. Storer
lived in the neighbourhood, and she was seen to
go out. She was of course discharged. It came
out afterwards from Mr. Storer himself, that she
actually did as we apprehended.

The next morning Sir Thomas Mills called (this gentleman is the natural son of Lord Mansfield); invited himself to tea, and said, with our leave he would bring an old friend with him, Admiral Spry. The gentleman also from the Duke of Northumberland called, and begged to see Mrs. Baddeley, saying, he had a letter only to deliver into her hands, which required no answer, and that he would not detain her a minute. She with a seeming reluctance saw him, and on his delivering the letter, he bowed and left her. Returning she gave me the letter, which I opened; it contained three bank-notes, to the amount of five hundred pounds, and was as follows:

“ My dear Mrs Baddeley,

“ Inclosed is a trifle which I beg your
 “ acceptance of. By your acceptance of this,
 “ I shall be able to direct some more of the
 “ same sort to your hand, and to explain my-
 “ self more fully.

“ Respectfully Yours.”

“ Friday morning.”

This note was written by the Duke himself, but without a name. Mrs. Baddeley observed upon this, that this sum was first sent by way of introduction, to see how it would be received. "And if the sum of five hundred pounds was not at this time, of great use to me," says she, "I would send it back; but as it is, Mrs. Steele, put it into your pocket: I suppose I shall hear from him again in a day or two."

In the afternoon came Sir Thomas Mills, with Admiral Spry, who invited us to the Naval review, at Portsmouth. We were just going to cards, when Lord Melbourne knocked at the door, which obliged Mrs. Baddeley to leave them, saying, she hoped they would excuse the necessity, and should be happy to see them at any other time. Mrs. Baddeley having retired, they soon took their leave, the Admiral saying, he should expect us at Portsmouth.

I began now to think of disposing of the Duke's money, and proposed the next day to divide it among those who most wanted it. Mrs. Baddeley said, his Lordship promised, in a few days, to settle accounts with me. She said,

said, he made many enquiries about what she was doing at Hammersmith; but that she excused herself very well, saying, she had taken my daughter with her, then about ten years of age. "How's that?" returns his lordship, "Mrs. Steele said, you was alone?" "Oh," replied she, "she does not consider the child as "any one." He then enquired after the child, and said, when his son was a man, he should marry her, and she would then be a *lamb*. His Lordship's name being Lamb.

As I made it a rule, when we had any money to spare, to send for the tradesmen, in whose debt we were, and pay them part of their bills, if not the whole; it was a means of keeping them quiet. The Duke's five hundred pounds was wholly disposed of this way.

Mr. Storer called, but no admittance. We then proposed an airing, and, getting into the coach, Mr. George Hobart came up, and offered to accompany us. We went towards Turnham-green, where he requested we would do him the honour to dine with him. A dinner was ordered at the Pack-horse, and we had every thing the house afforded. Mr. Hobart's polite attention on all occasions, commanded our

respect; for though Mrs. Baddeley would not receive his addresses, he always noticed her as a gentlewoman, and was at all times ready to oblige her.

On our return home, we found the gentleman from the Duke of Northumberland had called, and proposed calling the next day. — “This,” said, Mrs. Baddeley, is with more “money to me.” Two letters were also brought; one from Mr. Johnson, and one from Lord Melbourne.

Admiral Spry called to acquaint us that the time for the review was fixed; that it would continue three days, and advised us to write down, and order beds; as when the people at Portsmouth came to know it, we should not be able to procure them under ten guineas a night. The Admiral told us, that, if we pleased, we might be all day on board his ship; except the day his Majesty proposed him the honour of dining with him. The Admiral was a plain man, but one of a princely character, and an ornament to the navy; we accepted his invitation, and, when we came to Portsmouth, we were to let him know, and he would fetch us in his barge.

At ten o'clock, according to appointment, the gentleman called again from the Duke of Northumberland, and requested to see Mrs. Baddeley, as he had a letter to deliver into her own hands, and wished to see me likewise. Mrs. Baddeley urged me to see him, saying, she had told the Duke how I had disposed of the three hundred pounds he sent me, and shewed him the receipt for the same; which she took in her pocket purposely, that he might not think me under an obligation. I would not acknowledge; at this, his Grace said, my heart was as noble as my mind, and that I was an ornament to my sex. Therefore if I refused any thing now sent, it would be folly; he having no occasion to bribe me, for that the Duke being now fully acquainted with her sentiments, nothing further dishonourable would ever pass between them.

I went down to the gentleman, not forgetting her words in my way; and said, "Sir, my servant informed me you have a wish to see me." "Pardon me," replied he, "it is by his Grace of Northumberland's order, that I am, with his compliments, to present you with this." I asked, if it required an answer? He said no; on which I put it in my pocket,

pocket, and left him, saying, Mrs. Baddeley would wait on him presently. She begged to know what passed, and I gave her the letter; she opened it, and it contained four bank-notes of one hundred pounds each, with a slip of paper, on which was written. *A reward for a noble disposition.* Mrs. Baddeley returned it to me, and then went down to the gentleman with whom she had much conversation, continuing with him more than an hour; he gave her a packet sealed up, which she did not open till after he was gone; she then flew up to me, and gave it me to open, saying, there was no letter, for what the Duke had to say, he did not choose to commit to writing. The packet contained, as before, five hundred pounds in bank-notes; which made her very happy: she then told me what the gentleman had said to her, namely, that his Grace, being fearful she should refuse the letter, he was directed, if she did, to give it to her, to present me with it; that the Duke sent his kind love to her, that he was and ever should remain in the mind he had before expressed himself; that as she had so often told him, she could not receive his visits, in her present situation; he only requested, that if time should alter it, and she would acquaint him with the same, she would meet with

with all his promises; whenever she chose to command them; that he would, on all occasions, shew himself her friend, and the only favour she could bestow on him, in the present state of things, was to put it in his power to convince her of it, otherwise than by words, and to accept the small token he had sent; in testimony of it.

“ This money,” said Mrs. Baddeley “ will
 “ make us happy at Portsmouth.” “ Yes,”
 returned I, “ It will make our *minds* hap-
 “ py, for I beg it may be paid where it is
 “ due.” She put a negative upon this, say-
 ing, “ The people must wait till money comes
 “ from Lord Melbourne, for his Lordship has
 “ not been very bountiful of late; therefore,
 “ till *more* comes, I will not part with *this*,”
 I told her, she might command the money he
 sent to me, but she declared, on her honour
 and soul, I should not part with a shilling of it
 on her account; that it was my own, and
 three hundred pounds to it, (alluding to the
 first three his Grace sent me) if I had what
 was my right. All she wished, was, that I
 would give her a keep-sake, which she would
 preserve in memory of me, as long as she
 lived. I promised her I would, and as she had
 no

no bracelets, I bought her a pair of enamelled lockets, set round with brilliants, with small pearls to go round the wrist, which cost me one hundred and thirty pounds, and which she did me the favour to accept. She constantly wore them, and did me the credit to say, upon all occasions, they were a present from me.

In point of money-matters now, we were tolerably easy; but, my fears were, that whilst this sum was in the house, some new thing would occur, that would not be pleasing. One of the players came the next day, and gave us an account of an actor of some merit, being in distress, locked up in a spunging-house, for a debt of twenty-five pounds; that Mr. Garrick had been applied to, and would not advance him a penny; that he had a good wife, and a family of children; that, as he had not money to defray the expences of the house where he was, he must go to jail that night, if he could not find a friend to assist him; and, that at his desire, he took the liberty to call on Mrs. Baddeley. She looked wishfully at me, anxious I knew to relieve him, if it met with my approbation; I told her, as this person had a family, if she would pay half the debt, I would

would pay the other. "No," returns she, "permit me, I will pay the whole. Let us order the coach, and go and relieve him."

We accordingly went, discharged the debt and costs, and took him home to his wife, who did not expect to see him: and, to express the gratitude of the people, and the satisfaction we felt, would require an abler pen than mine. He was desirous of giving us his note for the money, but we refused it, saying, we begged his acceptance of it; and Mrs. Baddeley giving one of the children two guineas, we left them to the enjoyment of each other.

We had scarce reached home, before Lord Palmerston called, and asking where we had been, we told him, to relieve a distressed family, and mentioned some of the particulars. His Lordship seemed desirous of knowing how far he could be of use to the man, and who he was, as he should be happy to send him a few guineas. I begged to be excused mentioning his name, as he was a player, and it might tend only to expose him, without any good end; but, that if his Lordship thought proper to send him any thing, I would convey his favour, and the family should acknowledge it.

He

He gave me five guineas, but begged I would not say from whom it came.

Sir Thomas Mills now called, to acquaint us, from Admiral Spry, that we must set off the day after to-morrow for Portsmouth; he advised us to take our own horses, and to lie at Guildford the first night; and, on our arrival at Portsmouth, to send immediately to the Admiral.

As Lord Melbourne was out of town, and would continue so for some time, we began to prepare for the journey, and in order to make the best appearance we could, we equipped ourselves accordingly, both for our persons and our equipage.

Doctor Arne came the next morning to breakfast, to whom we never were denied, and enquiring of him, what brought him out so early, he said, to look for money, and asked, if we could favour him with the loan of twenty pounds. The money was lent him, by Mrs. Baddeley, and he gave his note for the same, payable, either to her or to me. Mrs. Baddeley, as soon as she received it, threw it into the fire, saying, " Now, Doctor, your note is
" paid

“ paid. Your acceptance of twenty pounds,
 “ is a sufficient recompense to me; for, in
 “ my first outset in life, when I was not able
 “ to pay you, how kindly did you and your
 “ son give me many a lesson. This is a
 “ circumstance I shall never forget, and I
 “ hope to be able to shew my further gratitude
 “ in a little time.” Dr. Arne was not a little
 pleased, flattered, and thankful. When he was
 gone, she asked me, whether I thought she
 acted right; I told her, I should have done
 the same, had I been under similar obligations.
 But she must not think of parting with any
 more money at present.

I had many things to adjust abroad; but,
 being afraid to leave her, I proposed sending
 for the hair-dresser, who I knew would engage
 her three hours, and put a book into her hands.
 She approved of this, for she was fond of read-
 ing, and few women read better; and the man
 was sent for.

Before the man had finished her hair, I re-
 turned. She asked me, if I had bought her
 the tickets she wished in the Irish lottery. I
 told her, I had bought three; “ Then, pray,
 “ Mrs. Steele,” said she, “ give them to the
 “ hair-

“hair-dresser to try his fortune.” I did as she desired; he was thankful, and said, as they were a present of her’s, he was sure they would be lucky.

We had a visit now from Doctor Hayes, of Marlborough-street, the physician, with whom Mrs. Baddeley once lived. She was happy to see him, and he staid tea. He talked of old times, and from thence he passed to present ones; said, he had purchased some shares in the Pantheon, which brought on the story related before of her having been refused admittance. He was happy, he said, to find the nobility took so active a part in her favour, and declared the managers were terribly frightened for the consequences. He then told her, she was still as dear to him as ever; but, as I did not quit the room, he had no opportunity of saying more, and after tea he left us. At nine o’clock, Mr. Dibden, the player, came to ask a favour of her, which she readily complied with. He staid supper, told us a strange story of Mr. Bickerstaff, the author, and of Mrs. Wrihten’s being engaged at the Theatre, and said, she had powers, and a good voice; but, he was of opinion, would never do for the stage. Here he prophesied ill,
for

for Mrs. Wrighten is, at this day, an able performer, and a credit to the Theatre.

We next morning set off for Portsmouth, having sent our maid in the stage the day before; we stopped and lay at Guildford the first night, and reached Portsmouth the next evening, where we found all things prepared for our reception.

Sir Thomas Mills called on us as soon as we arrived; he told us, the Admiral was on board the *Barfleur*, and that we must send our servant to him, to let him know we were arrived. We did so, and the Admiral returned his compliments, and said, he would wait on us as soon as possible, which he did, and drank tea with us. These gentlemen, the next morning, walked round the town with us, for the review was not to be till the next day: we were well dressed, and met here many of our friends, and were accosted by all.

Sir Thomas was not a little proud of the company he was in. As we got into the barge to go on board, six sailors in company bowed to the Admiral, and, one of them, with an oath, said, the whole fleet could not show so fine

fine a fight as that lady, meaning Mrs. Baddeley; and, another swore, if he was George the Third, she should be his Queen. "Bravo, Jack," said Admiral Spry, and gave the fellow a guinea to drink her health. As soon as we were seated in the barge, the Admiral was saluted by a discharge of guns. When we came along aside the Barfleur, the ship was manned to receive us, and the Captain, whom I knew from his childhood, was as happy to see us as can be expressed. We were conducted into the Admiral's apartments, and chocolate, with various sorts of cakes and preserves were brought before us. We were then shewn the ship, and being very tall, and not stooping sufficiently, I received a slight blow in passing the hammocks which hung over our heads. The Admiral immediately ordered them all down, and not to be hung up again in the day-time, till the review was over. I was not much hurt, but his orders were obeyed; in ten minutes not a hammock was to be seen. We staid dinner, and the table was richly and elegantly served, equal to any nobleman's I ever saw, except the Duke of Queensberry's, which exceeds all description for elegance, neatness, splendor, and profusion. Our dinner consisted of three courses, and a desert.

sent fit for the King, with ices, creams, jellies, syllabubs, pines, and fruit of all kinds, with the most costly wines. Mrs. Baddeley was so charmed with the reception and entertainment she met with, that she did not know how to express herself. She sung, and being asked a second time, sung,

How little do the landsmen know,
 What we poor sailors feel;
 When waves do mount, and winds do blow;
 But we have hearts of steel.

No danger can affright us,
 No enemy can flout;
 We'll make the Monseurs right us;
 So, put the can about.

This song, and her manner of singing it, delighted the whole company. The Admiral considered it as a compliment paid him, and ordered his Secretary to remember and get it, that it might be sung in memory of Mrs. Baddeley, when they were many leagues from thence.—She was requested to sing it again, and, with the variations she threw in it, the emphasis she laid

laid on particular words, and the action she made use of throughout, she put the whole company in raptures.

After dinner, tea and coffee was served in silver equipage. A band of music was now introduced, and many fine pieces they played; and, on our wishing to go on shore, the Admiral requested of Mrs. Baddeley one favour, which was, before our departure, to sing the seaman's song again, and upon deck, accompanied with the music; she complied as before, with an additional flow of spirits, and the whole ship's crew joined in choros. When she had done, I requested her, on my part, to close the whole with,

God save the King.

The Admiral was delighted, said all his men should join her, and it was sung, and chorused by the crew, with a thunder of applause from every part of the ship; and, I received the thanks of every one present. Every man, by the Admiral's order, drank his Majesty's health, with three cheers. The ship was then manned again, every one to his station. Sir Thomas Mills and the Admiral accompanied us on shore,
and

and we could do no less than express our gratitude at this hospitable and polite entertainment.

Admiral Spry told us, the King was to dine on board the Barfleur the next day, and of course he could not have the honour to attend us; but the day after, he claimed our promise of being on board again, and recommended us to be in time the next day, to secure a good place on land, to see the review; then leaving us to the care of Sir Thomas Mills, he took his leave saying, his attendance on board was necessary, to see all was in order for his Majesty's reception. More than twenty of the nobility had called at our lodgings, and left their names. His Majesty we understood was now come, for guns were firing, the bells were ringing, and the houses were illuminated, and every demonstration of joy shewn in all parts of town. We ordered our coach, and rode through it. After riding about an hour and a half about the town (Sir Thomas with us), and delighted with the gratitude of all ranks of people to his Majesty, we returned home to supper, and Sir Thomas, promising to be with us early, took his leave and withdrew.

We

We ordered the carriage by eight o'clock in the morning, as Sir Thomas said his Majesty would be very early, looking about the fortifications, batteries, &c. before he went on board; we were up at six, and by eight were full dressed for the day, at which hour Sir Thomas came.

We rode about, accompanying his Majesty in his circuit; where he was attended by thousands of all ranks, who seemed to contend with each other in their praise and congratulations.

We thought nothing wanting to complete the scene but the presence of her Majesty, (who was not at Portsmouth upon this occasion), to share in the general joy of the thousands, who came here from all parts of the world.

I do not mean to give my readers an account of this review which has been retailed at large, in all the public prints; I shall only say, that the splendor of the sight exceeded any description of mine.

In the evening we went to the play, attended by Sir Thomas, and sent to the Admiral to solicit

solicit his company. He returned word, that he would certainly be there, but he feared it would be late first.

The house was crowded, and the piece performed, was, *Romeo and Juliet*, with a Harlequin entertainment. Wroughton performed *Romeo*, and the play was tolerably well performed, till an interruption took place in the gallery.

In that part of the play where Juliet exclaims, "Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?" "Look a-head my dear girl," says a sailor above, "and you'll soon find him. Was I near him, I'd kick him to hell, for not coming to so sweet a creature." This made the whole house laugh so immoderately, as to stop the performance for some time. The fellow went on, and others joined him. "That Roman," (as they called him) "will be soon fore and aft with the dear girl, I'll warrant him."

When the entertainment began, in came the Admiral, apologizing for being so late, as he had but just left his ship. He told us he should have many of his choicest friends with him the

next

next day, who promised themselves great pleasure in our company.

When Harlequin made his appearance, the sailors began again. One said, if that dapper-patched dog, who he believed stole his jacket from the dressing of the ships, had been with Mr. Roman, he would have paid him well with his rapper, he'd warrant. For the poor pretty girl's sake, he wished he'd come again.

This set the house again in a roar, and when he said the dog had stole his jacket from the ships silks, Lord Townshend, who was present, laughed heartily, and wrote it down with a pencil. Sir Thomas and the Admiral supped with us.

The next morning we were up at six, and we dressed ourselves to the greatest advantage.—Mrs. Baddeley put on all her jewels, and her rich diamond necklace, on which I had borrowed two hundred pounds, but soon after redeemed.

Admiral Spry, and Sir Thomas Mills found us ready when they called. They conducted

us on board, as before, and we were received in the same manner.

During breakfast, a band of music played, and when breakfast was over, the signals were displayed, as when his Majesty was present. We saw the whole with great pleasure and ease to ourselves, and in much greater perfection than the day before. The King was on board another ship; the day was a fine one, and the sight beyond description.

During this spectacle, we were a little surprised by the violent scream of a young voice on board, but could not learn the occasion, the attention of all present being fixed on the business of the day. Chocolate and cakes were handed round to all the company, and the whole ended some little time before dinner; when the music struck up,

"God save the King,"

and Mrs. Baddeley, and the whole ship's crew joined in chorus.

When dinner was announced, we went into the cabin, to the number of eighteen. The

first course consisted of twenty-one dishes, was served up in plate; the rest of the dishes served in beautiful china, besides a desert. Every thing in season was before us; and there were six Admirals of the party.

Admiral Spry was happy and merry, and when dinner was over, bade the music strike up. Calling on Mrs. Baddeley for a sentiment, she took a glass of champagne, and gave, “ May every engagement at sea, be attended with the loss of as few lives, as that of *this* day; but may we be ever victorious over the French!”

This sentiment pleased; it went round, and was written down by a gentleman present. I was then called upon for mine, and gave, “ May there never be greater cause for engagements, than the cause of this day; and may all belonging to his Majesty’s navy, enjoy the blessing of peace!” This was also penned down. After every sentiment we had a song. Admiral Spry sung

“Hearts of Oak, &c.”

and was chorused. When it came to Mrs. Baddeley's turn to sing, she begged their choice, and was requested to sing,

"Where little foolish fluttering thing, &c."

from the *Padlock*.—She did, and when she came to that part,

"Where little wanton would you be,
"Half so happy as with me?"

a gentleman present, cried out aloud, "No where, by G—d," which made her and the rest laugh so much, that she could not go on for some time. "No more of your declarations," Captain," said the Admiral, "let's have the song." "Flesh and blood," returned he, "will speak." This caused a fresh laugh; however, having finished her song, a sentiment was given, and she called for another.

After a little time was spent in singing, some proposed cards, and others a dance; and Mrs. Baddeley was asked to dance a minuet. But she, who was accomplished in every thing else, was but an indifferent dancer, and declining,

ing, I was applied to. The young gentleman who asked me, being from the North, I enquired whether he could dance a Scotch reel. He replied, "yes;" we therefore proposed to finish the minuet with a reel. My partner danced exceedingly well, and of course we made no bad figure — All present were delighted. The Admiral then returned me thanks, saying, he was ashamed to intrude, but as he was sure a person who danced a reel so well, could also dance a hornpipe; requested, if I could, to oblige him with one. I did, and to the tune of Nancy Dawson, which charmed them all.

From this we proceeded to country dances, and danced till tea-time. After tea we had more singing. In short, our day was most agreeably spent; but just before we thought of going, a story came out, that damped our spirits.

"If you remember, ladies," said Captain Knight, (who was Captain of Admiral Spry's Ship,) "you asked in the time of the engagement, what occasioned a scream you heard: I have just been told that melancholy tale by the Surgeon.

"A pretty

“ A pretty boy on board, belonging to one of
“ the Lieutenants, had done some trifling thing
“ to offend his master; who, running after him,
“ in order to chastise him, the poor boy, in or-
“ der to escape, made an attempt to jump a-
“ cross the copper, in which, meat for the crew
“ was boiling, in hopes to get behind it: but,
“ in his hurry, he fell into it, and was taken
“ out with all the flesh burnt from the soles of
“ his feet, and part of his body. Such a sight
“ has never been seen on board before.

“ In this miserable state, the poor lad was
“ wrapped in an oiled sheet, for his face was
“ equally scalded, and taken to the Hospital,
“ where he lived in torture till within this half-
“ hour.”

This threw a cloud on all our merriment,
and as it grew late, we begged leave to go a-
shore.

The barge was accordingly ordered, and the
Admiral, apologizing to the company for leav-
ing them, in order to escort the ladies and his
friends on shore, accompanied us there and re-
turned.

The next day Admiral Spry, and Sir Thomas Mills breakfasted with us, and after breakfast we walked round the town : in our walk we met with Captain Fawkner, with his brother Everard. He noticed us, and bowed, and after he had passed us, followed us up and down, gazing occasionally at Mrs. Baddeley, and she at him, but did not offer to join us.

Finding this, I complained of being weary, and wished to return home ; however, as she passed Captain Fawkner, she said aloud to the Admiral, that he might hear, " I have taken
" places in the boxes to-night for us all ; and
" we will go to the play."

After accompanying the Admiral to his boat, we returned home with Sir Thomas ; but he, being engaged to dinner, took his leave for half an hour to dress ; saying, he would attend us during the review, and to the play in the evening. Mrs. Baddeley was pleased at this ; as it gave her an opportunity of seeing Captain Fawkner, who made his appearance as soon as Sir Thomas Mills had turned his back. He flew to her, kissed her hand with rapture, and said, " Cannot I see you to-day ?" She told him not, as the party she came down with, would

would be with her the whole day, and accompany her to the play at night. Captain Fawkn-
ner said he should be at the play, and took his
leave.

No sooner had Sir Thomas left us to go to
dinner, but Captain Fawkn-ner, who certainly
must have watched his going and coming, came
to us, and dined with us. He solicited he might
see her the next day, if it was but for ten mi-
nutes; and, she promised to let him know, if
possible, whether she could see him. When
they parted, they looked at each other like
lovers, unwilling to separate; and when I told
her that I noticed it, she said, he was so good,
so handsome, so sweet, that an angel must love
such a man.

Before the Theatre was opened, the Admiral
and Sir Thomas called, and took us the distance
of five miles on the London road, to drink tea
with a friend, whose family consisted of him,
his lady, and three daughters, women grown.
They pressed us to stay the evening, but the
play was our excuse, and we came away,
promising to dine with them in our way to
town.

Entering the box at the Theatre, we found Captain Fawkner. Mrs. Baddeley sat down as near to him as she could ; but, it was not noticed by our company, as they had no suspicion. Presently came in Captain Fawkner's brother, who sat down by him. Mrs. Baddeley's attention was engrossed by him who sat near her, and she took no notice of the play.

She proposed on our return to set off for London the day but one after, as she designed shortly to go to Oxford to see Lord North installed Chancellor. "How came you," said I, "to think of this; and who is to be of your party?" She told me, Lord Palmerston and Mr. Montagu, son of Lord Sandwich, who was then, with many others, to have a Doctor's degree. This being settled, Admiral Spry said, he would acquaint his friend to-morrow morning, and would accompany us there the next day to dinner; and, that to-morrow, before dinner, he would attend us to Gosport, to shew us the place.

In the morning, she went and invited Captain Fawkner to breakfast, much against my inclination. She used various means, and tried several ways to get me to leave them; but, being

ing determined to the contrary, all her plans were ineffectual. At last the pencil went to work, and they were rude enough to write and answer each other before me; but, I took no notice of it.

The time drew near now, when we expected Sir Thomas and the Admiral to call and accompany us to Gosport; but she complained of a head-ach, and said she could not go. Accordingly she took her leave of Captain Fawkner, and we excused ourselves with the Admiral. This gave me an opportunity to prepare for our journey.

Mrs. Baddeley continued ill till fix, when I went to her, and she then, brought as it were to reflection, laughed, and threw her arms round my neck, and thanked me for my conduct to her in the morning, in not leaving her alone with Mr. Fawkner.

One o'clock next day was the hour fixed for our leaving Portsmouth, in order to dine with Admiral Spry's friend. Mrs. Baddeley, however, was up and dressed by nine, when Captain Fawkner called upon her again, to enquire how she did, and hoped he did not intrude; his pen-

cil told him not; for he called on her by appointment yesterday. The few hours she had to spare, passed away in sighs and looks; for, as I never left them, they had no opportunity of exchanging words, but in general conversation. The coachman coming to the door, he took his leave. In a few minutes came our friends, and we set off to dinner, as engaged, and where we were elegantly entertained; and the whole family being musical, we had a concert after it. When Mrs. Baddeley sung, the old lady, who was unacquainted with her situation in life, was so charmed with it, that she said, it was a misfortune to all lovers of music, that she was independent; or she might otherwise make a fortune in London, at the Theatres. At this, we could scarce keep our countenances. They pressed us to stay all night, the old lady, saying she was determined to have an angel with her one night (for so she called Mrs. Baddeley), we staid, and the next morning they persuaded us to accompany them to several gentlemen's seats in the neighbourhood, which they should take a pleasure, they said, in shewing us. Saying, in my ride, that I was born in Westminster, the old lady asked me, if I knew any thing of the widow of Mr. Hughes, late flator to his Majesty, and whether she was living; telling me she

she was a near relation of her's; that they were brought up at the same school, and that she was a very valuable woman. "Yes, Madam," said I, "that lady is living." "Before you go then," returned she, "I will trouble you with a line." "I will deliver it," said I, "with pleasure, for I have the honour to be one of that lady's daughters." At this, she caught me round the neck, shed tears of joy, and kissed me. On our return to her house, she made me, if possible, more welcome than before, and there was no quitting it. She made us stay with her four days, and promised on our departure to bring her family to town, and come and spend a week with us.

During our stay, we had the Admiral and Sir Thomas Mills with us every day, and the Admiral was delighted, that he was so fortunate as to bring us together. We preserved our acquaintance with this lady till she died, which was some years after.

On our leaving this family, we made the best of our way to town, and reached it the next morning at two o'clock. We there found letters and messages in plenty; but were too tired to read them, or hear more than that we must set
out

out for Oxford in two days. Lord Palmerston had called more than ten times, and was fearful we should not return in time, and begged we would let him know as soon as we arrived.

We did not rise the next day till noon, when we sent to Lord Palmerston, who came immediately ; said, we must send to Oxford to provide beds, for there was so much company going, that beds would be let for five guineas a night ; that Mrs. Sheridan was to sing there, and that what we should see, would be very different from the spectacle at Portsmouth, yet would equally entertain us ; and, that we must set off the day but one after with our own horses, for all the horses on the road were bespoke ; and if we did not send off that night, it would be ten to one, whether we should get a bed. We, therefore, sent off one of our servants express, and gave him orders to procure us a lodging : his Lordship requested a corner in our carriage, and we could not refuse him.

If there was any further connexion between Lord Palmerston and Mrs. Baddeley, than what I was acquainted with, it was between themselves ; she never acquainted me with it ; and,

as she was too communicative at times, for her own happiness, I should suppose she would have acquainted me with this, as she did with her other secrets. All I know is, that his Lordship's behaviour to her was always consistent with the friend and gentleman; and his politeness at our house, did him, in my sight, great honour. He was not, however, sparing of his commendations of her; and, as he was then an unmarried man, he might be permitted to pass his compliments as he thought proper.

Determined to make the best appearance at Oxford, as we had done at Portsmouth, Mrs. Baddeley had some new clothes made up for the occasion; with a great dale of fashionable millinery. She said her diamond necklaces would make a beautiful band round her bosom; all she wanted was a bow for her breast, and one for each sleeve, which she said she could hire of Mr. Bellas, the jeweller, in Pall Mall, for about fourteen pounds, and hoped I would approve of it. I opposed it with saying, that put the expence of it out of the question, the imprudence should be sufficient to prevent her; that nature had been bountiful to her; that she wanted no such additional ornaments; and that she would be as much if not more, admired without them.

I told

I told her that vanity and extravagance was pointed at more than she thought of; that a less expensive dress would be considered as the produce of her own professional industry; but, decorated with diamonds, as she proposed, the world would only sneer at her, and cry. “Look at Mrs. Baddeley! Take notice of her diamonds! See what a quantity she has!” “And how did she get them?” says another.—“They are only the rewards of prostitution.” “And what then?” returns she, angrily, “I care not for any of their remarks; I *will* have the bows, and nothing shall prevent it. My person is my own, and I will do with it as I please;” and, growing still more enraged at the dread of a disappointment, she continued, “Nay, I will do more than ever I have done yet; for I will not be debarred from *seeing* who I please, and *doing* with them what I please—I will have twenty times the quantity of diamonds I have.”—At this, she burst out into tears of rage, and sent her servant off for the diamonds she wanted. I let her go on uninterrupted; and, when she had finished, she ran out and bolted herself up in another room. In short, I never saw her in such a passion before, and, found from this, that I could only keep her within bounds, by soft-reasoning, persuasion

sion, and giving way to her folly in many things.

When Mr. Bellas came with the diamonds, and she had agreed with him for the hire, she brought them up, and laid them down before me, with a degree of triumph, saying, "Now I have began, I am determined to go on;—I will send for Mr. Fawkner, and Mr. Storer, and every one I think proper; and, I will do with them as I please." This declared, and studied opposition to every thing I thought right, I must own nettled me, and I replied, with firmness, "Do,——send for them,——pursue your own destruction; —but it must be alone, and not with me, I most solemnly assure you. I have long been a slave to your folly, but I will now end it; see then who you will, and act as you think proper; but, as I have too much regard for you to see it, I will study my own happiness, and leave you, till time brings you to reflection. Put none of my things up for Oxford, for I will not go; and as this house seems to suit you, I will let it to you; for, I am resolved to leave you this day; determined you shall have it no longer in your power to treat me with such unkindness, when

“ when my conduct and advice to you merits
“ your best thanks and gratitude. I will go
“ this instant to my mother’s, where I will
“ dine and I will sleep at my sister’s; and, to-
“ morrow, if you will come to a settlement, I
“ will give you seven years to pay me what
“ you owe me; and, to convince you, I do
“ not part in enmity, I will accommodate you
“ with any money you may now want; and
“ any service I can do you, at a distance, you
“ may command.”

At this, I took my hat to put it on; when she flew to me, took me fast into her arms, and cried, and sobbed so much, that it made my heart ach: she then fell on her knees, begged my pardon, and declared, if I left her, she would stab herself the next minute. — I told her, coolly, that I had made up my mind upon the occasion, and would ever be her friend through life; but, that her declarations had really shocked me, and that I could not continue with her under them, and begged she would not hold me. She was in such an agitation that alarmed me; said, she should die, if I did not relieve her mind, by promising not to leave her. To quiet her, I, at last, said, that I would not. She then blessed me a thousand

thousand times, still holding me in her arms; and when I found her agitation a little over, I said, "Now, if you, please we will have a little serious conversation." She replied, "I can hear *nothing* till you again promise not to leave me. Do this; be friends; and I will submit to any thing." I then promised I would not leave her for the present.—"That word *present*, my dear, dear Steele," said she, "I do not like.—Give me your hand." I did. "Now," continued she, "forgive my vile temper and I will never more offend you. I know too well your good wishes for me, and therefore entreat you to pass over in oblivion, what has happened to day; and I will never give you cause to complain of me again."

"There is not a servant in this house that is not wretched on account of this quarrel, for they value you much more than me; and, I am convinced, when they know we are friends, they will be as happy as before." Thus was her foolish obstinacy, for the time, got the better of;—we kissed each other, and all was to be forgotten.

We

We then began to pack up our things, for our journey: (this was in the year 1772,) and when she put up her diamonds, she threw them into her box, with a, "Curse on these baubles!" "I wish the devil had them all before I saw them!" I took no notice of this, but went on till we had finished; and gave orders for the carriage, &c. to be ready the next morning at six o'clock.

Lord Palmerston being with us at six, we set out together; reached Oxford in the evening, and found our servant had provided us a good lodging, at the expence of five guineas for one week.

His Lordship promised to conduct us to the Theatre the next day, but wished before he left us, to speak to Mrs. Baddeley in private, having a secret to communicate, which respected her only, and which could be intrusted only to her private ear. I accordingly, left the room, and his secret, as she afterwards told me, was only to request the grant of that favour, she had often so imprudently granted to others; and his behaviour, she said, was so ungentlemanlike, that she was sure the whole house must have known it, and she was fearful it would get all over

over Oxford. However, says she, as I promised his Lordship, upon his apologizing, that I would not acquaint you with it; I hope you will not notice it. I promised her, I would not, but that after we left Oxford, I should admit no more of his visits. Till this transaction I entertained the highest opinion of his Lordship, and thought him a good man; but, I find I am subject to the weakness, common to my sex; namely, to think better of mankind than they deserve.

His Lordship attended us to the Theatre next morning; and procured us very good seats. It was presently full; and all the company being full-dressed, it had a very splendid appearance.

Lord Palmerston now left us, to attend Lord North, who soon entered the Theatre robed, and in this dress so much resembled the King, that, had they been together, few would have known them apart.

The same reason that I do not lay before my readers, the ceremonies, and all the particulars of the spectacle at Portsmouth, holds good with respect to that at Oxford; that the

the whole has been already given to the public through the news-papers. All I shall observe is, that we were well entertained for three days, and that Lord North had as much attention and respect paid him, on the occasion, by persons of all ranks, as was shewn to his Majesty in his visit to Portsmouth; and his Lordship in return, expressed every mark of gratitude in his power.

An odd circumstance occurred at the Theatre, that shews how necessary it is to be guarded in our conversation in public, with persons we are unacquainted with.

When Mrs. Sheridan had sung one of her best songs, a lady who sat next me, asked me whether I did not think she sung well; I replied, "wonderfully; that I had heard much of her, but had never seen her before." She then said, "Mrs. Sheridan is the first English singer of the age." I begged leave to differ with her in that, as I was partial to Mrs. Baddeley.

At this instant, Lord Palmerston, who was behind, had joined us, and who had heard our conversation, tapped me on the shoulder, and whispered,

whispered, that the person I was talking to, was Mrs. Linley, Mrs. Sheridan's mother. I was in myself sorry for what I had said, but when I considered the vanity of the old lady, I thought she deserved the reply.

Lord Palmerston accompanied us, during our stay at Oxford, round the Colleges, and other places, except the last day, when his engagements would not permit him. On this last day, Mrs. Baddeley wished to see a certain library again. Whilst there, we saw several Oxonians; one of whom fixed his eyes on Mrs. Baddeley the whole time; she also was particularly struck with him, and said to me in a whisper, "Look, Mrs. Steele, what a beauty of a man! He is even handsomer than Captain Fawkner!" On her saying this, I was for going away, but she would not, continuing to gaze at him, under a pretence of viewing the library. Presently came in Mr. Montagu, a son of Lord Sandwich, who said he had been hunting us these two hours, as he wished to pay his respects to us, and shew us the Colleges. We walked round the place again, with Mr. Montagu, and this young Oxonian followed us every where, till we reached our lodgings, where Mr. Montagu left

left us with saying, he should take the liberty of calling on us in London. When he was gone, Mrs. Baddeley observed, that of all the handsome men, she ever saw in her life, this young Oxonian was the most beautiful. And asked me if I took notice of him. "Hang him," said I, "I did not look at him." "Not look at him!" returned she, "I wish you had, for I shall never forget him!" Presently came a footman with a letter, requesting leave to deliver it into Mrs. Baddeley's own hand. He was ordered up and delivering it, begged an answer. Her reply was, "If it requires an answer, I will send one." This letter was from the Oxonian; and was as follows.

"Dear Madam,

"Pardon me for declaring I am so much enamoured with your beauty, that I know not how to express my heart farther, than that I am the most wretched of all men on earth, supposing myself not worthy your notice; yet I am emboldened to ask permission, to shew you the College, the honourable gentleman omitted this day to do. If I am indulged in this request, I shall

“ shall think it the happiest day of my life.
 “ Your answer by my servant, will be esteemed
 “ an obligation, to one who subscribes him-
 “ self,

“ your obedient,

“ humble servant.

“ Joseph Gill.”

“ *To Mrs. Baddeley.*”

Though Mrs. Baddeley wished to send an answer, none was sent; for, if possible, she was more than happy at the receipt of his letter and read it over and over again. — “ Burn his nonsense,” said I. Presently came the servant again, with his Master’s compliments, begging the favour of an answer. I sent word down, that the letter required none. He then said that he had a note to leave; our servant brought it up. This letter was similar to the other.

Mrs. Baddeley saying she must give some answer, ordered the servant to come up. He came,

came, and she said, "Young man, make my
" compliments to your master, and tell him, I
" saw every part of the College I wished to see,
" the first day I came to Oxford; but, not-
" withstanding this, I am much obliged to him
" for his politeness on the occasion." The
servant bowed and went. "Well," said she,
to me, "I shall never hear any more of him;
" so don't make yourself uneasy."

I then proposed going to town the next day;
but she wished to see Blenheim, before she went;
and seeing this gentleman pass by, as I found
afterwards, she would go out and buy some
gloves. We were no sooner in the shop, than
in he comes to buy gloves also. He spoke to
her, hoped she was well, and reddened like fire;
she coloured likewise. He hoped, he said, she
would pardon the liberty he took, in writing to
her; not knowing she had seen the College, till
his servant brought him back an answer.

When we left the shop, he handed us down
the steps, and requested Mrs. Baddeley to in-
dulse him with a minute or two's conversation;
she told him she could not, that she was near
home, where he could not be admitted; and
then asked him how far it was to Blenheim; as
she

she designed going there the next day. After telling us, he reluctantly took his leave sighing.—

When we returned to our lodgings, she remarked, that he was a well-bred young gentleman, and was much handsomer when near than when at a distance ; and that she would, if she dared, without offending me, have invited him to tea.—I told her I saw through her design in asking how far it was to Blenheim, and would lay ten guineas he would be there. She assured me she had no view in what she asked him, and was sure he would not be there.

Lord Palmerston called in the evening, and would have attended us to town ; but, on saying we meant to go to Blenheim, he was sorry it was out of his power to wait on us there, as business of consequence called him away, and if he was determined not to go, he would leave Oxford immediately.

On asking him whether it was not dangerous travelling by night, he said no, he never carried much money with him, and therefore was regardless : then putting a piece of paper on the table, he said, her horses and servants would

cost her something to town; and he begged he might leave that, to enable her men to pay the turnpikes. He then took his leave and departed. When he was gone, we looked at the paper, and found it a fifty pound bank-note. — Mrs. Baddeley observed, that it was a poor present, but every little was of service.

We went to Blenheim the next day, the seat of the Duke of Marlborough; and as I expected, we there met with Mr. Gill. He was well-dressed, and came up and paid his respects to us; hoped we would pardon the liberty he took in coming there, but as he heard us say we meant to see that place, he would not miss the opportunity of making his bow to us, if he found us disengaged; and, thank God, he had that happiness.

I saw she was pleased; she told him he was very polite, and he accompanied us round the place; and I took notice that she prolonged the time of viewing it, as much as she could.

She asked him, if there was any other place near there worth seeing; he told her Lord Abington had a seat within five miles; if she would permit him, he would attend her there.

Accordingly

Accordingly she consented, said her servant might take his horse, and he might, if he pleased, get into the coach ; he was as happy at this, as a man could be ; and she seemed not less so.

He began presently to talk of love, but Mrs. Baddeley, first looking at *him*, and next at *me*, put a stop to it ; though her eyes and his both talked to each other.

This young gentleman, was about one or two and twenty years of age, sensible and clever ; and it was not to be wondered at, that he should be smitten with her beauty, which had already attracted hundreds.

When we reached this house we was upon the road to see, and which was a very long five miles to it ; it was not worth viewing. However, she did not think so, had it been a Cottage only, as it gave her more of his company.

As soon as we saw the house, it was necessary to bait the horses. The coachman was ordered to stop at the best inn he could find, and it was settled that we should dine.

After dinner and coffee, we proposed returning to Oxford; but, the coachman said, the horses were not well, for two of them would not eat their corn; and that they should be blooded.

Mr. Gill went out to look at them, and was of the same opinion, and thought, if they were bled, and a warm mash given them, they would be fit to travel the next day.

This sickness of the horses, I have reason to believe, was all a pretence, and settled between Mr. Gill and the coachman; for Mrs. Baddeley said, when Mr. Gill went into the stable, “If I could get a divorce from Mr. Baddeley, and this young man would marry me, I would take him for life, and live contented in any situation he could place me in; so as you, my dear Steele, would promise to be with me.” I told her it would be the summit of my wishes to see her the wife of a man who would make her happy. At Mr. Gill’s return, we found there was no getting further that night; and, therefore determined to stay till next morning, and he continued with us.

We

We passed the evening chearfully ; Mrs. Baddeley sung, and delighted him beyond measure, and the time slipped away fast. At supper-time he took his leave, and promised to be with us the next morning at breakfast.

When he was gone, she ran on wildly of his pretty behaviour, his insinuating address, and engaging manners ; and, marry him she swore she would, if it was possible, and leave all mankind for him.

She told me, that whilst I was writing to my husband, she had learned from him, that he was the second son of a gentleman at Reading, who had an independant fortune of one thousand pounds a year ; that he was brought up for a clergyman, having a living promised him, which he could live happy on, with what his father could afford to give him ; “ So,” continued she, “ you see how inquisitive I have been ; and, “ as he has declared that he loves me, if I can “ any ways obtain a divorce, I will marry him, “ for I love him beyond description.” “ Ob- “ serve, now,” said I, “ how childishly you “ act, and how easily you are to be led aside.” “ Nothing,” replied she, “ could make me “ swerve from him. If I married him, I would

“ be faithful to him ; and, depend upon it, I
“ will never suffer him to take a liberty with
“ me, unless he *does* marry me. And what can
“ I do better ?” “ Many things,” returned I,
“ as I have often repeated.”——“ Yes,” said
she, “ follow my profession.—I hate my profes-
“ sion ; but, had I this angel of a man, if he
“ thought proper, I would pursue this profession
“ to help him.” “ Stuff,” said I, “ you are
“ as changeable as the wind, and I am con-
“ vinced, would be tired of him in a week.”

However, I fell in with her, and thought, if
her plan could be brought about, it might not
be a bad one ; and, on my saying so, she cried,
“ My dear Steele, if you can assist me in this,
“ God will bless you for it, and so shall I ; as I
“ should then sit down contented and happy for
“ the remainder of my life, and would despise
“ every dissipated man of fashion ; for, with all
“ their money, all their splendor, and all their
“ fancied happiness, their life is a wretched
“ one, and their round of dissipation a tiresome
“ labour.

“ And as to one, in my unfortunate situa-
“ tion, there is no living with them, without
“ following their follies ; and if one does not
“ make an appearance equal with them they
“ think

“ think nothing of us ; and, if one *do*s, it is
 “ called extravagance.”

She then begged I would not prevent her seeing Mr. Gill ; for she had no other view in it, than to get him for a husband.

I asked her how she could obtain a divorce ; she replied, by suing Mr. Baddeley for living in adultery. She had been told she could do this, and she would make the attempt.

In the morning, hearing a horse come into the yard full speed, she jumped out of bed, and said, she was sure it was Mr. Gill ; and the chamber-maid entering the room shortly after, said, the gentleman was come, and breakfast was ready.

On our coming down, after the proper compliments had passed, we enquired how our horses were, and were told not much better, and that a farrier should be sent for.

A farrier came, and said, they had received a violent chill, and had caught cold, and if they were taken out of the warm stable that day, they would die ; but, that the next day, with

care, they might be able to proceed on their journey.

I still thought this was a scheme of Mr. Gill's, or indeed for the good of the house, and of course went into the stable myself; and, as far as I could judge, they were ill; for they trembled exceedingly: so, it was agreed then, to stay the event of the morrow.

I called, however, for the bill, lest the young gentleman (for I found he had ordered it) should pay it.

I told the landlady, if he asked any thing about it, to say it was discharged by the ladies.

Telling Mrs. Baddeley what I had done, she thanked me, saying, she would not suffer him to pay any thing.

Mr. Gill presently came in, and said, "Ladies, I am so much ashamed of myself, that I scarce know how to see you. I went just now to pay the bill, and found you had done it; pray oblige me, by permitting me to return you the money," Mrs. Baddeley, said,

said, "Not a word, Sir, more of that, if you please; I consider you as a visitor, and, it is a rule with me, never to accept a favour of this kind, even from my best friend." He bowed, and begged pardon, and hoped he had given no offence.

We then put on our hats for a walk round the village, and seeing a poor man with a harp, Mrs. Baddeley ordered him to the Inn; found he played well, and knew almost every song she could sing; of course the morning was spent delightfully, for she sung a variety, he accompanying her, and kept him upwards of two hours; then giving him five shillings, she bad him go into the kitchen and eat something. The poor man, at the sight of the five shillings, cried with joy, saying, his wife was that day delivered of a child on the road, and he had it now in his power to give her some comfort. On being asked how far she was off, he said, three miles, describing the place, where a poor cottager had taken her in. On this, Mr. Gill and I gave him half a crown each; and, Mrs. Baddeley said, "Instead of staying to eat your dinner, take a bottle of brandy for your wife, and make all the

E 5

" haste

"haste to her you can." The poor man fell on his knees and blessed us.

Mrs. Baddley, from the various impositions she had met with, doubted the truth of this man's story, and Mr. Gill being of the same way of thinking, said, if she chose to enquire further into it, her man might take his horse and go there; for, as I talked of going to see her, should the fellow have told a lie, I should have saved myself the trouble of a journey. The coachman was dispatched, and found the woman, who had been delivered that morning, laid with her infant on some clean straw, with a few things only to cover her; he said, she was a pretty woman, looked very ill, and asked his charity; that, he gave her two shilling, saying, his heart ached at the sight; that he overtook her husband on the road, walking as fast as he could; but, that he passed him, and took no notice of him. On hearing this tale, we sent for the mistress of the house, told her the story, and begged she would inform us where we could get her a bed. She replied, that her hostler had a bed, a couple of blankets, and a rug, to dispose of, and that a guinea would purchase them; and, as we were so well disposed, she would send

send her a pair of old sheets. Hearing there was a bedstead in the cottage, the bed was bought, and sent off instantly in a cart. The landlady sent one of her maids with it, and also the warming-pan, and ordered her to see the poor woman comfortably put to bed. Whilst we were at dinner, the maid returned, telling us how happy we had made the whole family, and that a thousand blessings were returned us; and, that our servant, unknown to us, had taken her a bottle of gin, which he paid for out of his own pocket. The mistress said, she had looked out a few old things of a sort, for the woman and her child, which she would send her; that she mentioned her situation and distress to some ladies in the house, who, among them, had given her to the amount of a guinea; and, that an out-rider to a tradesman, in London, then in the kitchen, had paid her for two gallons of candle, which she was also to send her.

As we were going to tea, the poor harper returned, and began plying without the house, but in our hearing; and sung, as he played, the following song:

It is not wealth, it is not birth,
Can value to the Soul convey:
Minds possess superior wealth,
Which Time, nor Chance, can take away, &c.

When he had done, he came in and returned us so many thanks, that rather distressed us, it being a blessing to a generous mind to do good unnoticed, and unrewarded, but by the actions done. He played a good while, and we had him come again in the morning. When he went, he took home a variety of things which the mistress of the house had looked up for him; and Mrs. Baddeley gave her servant half a guinea as a reward for his humanity.

Mr. Gill, in the evening, said, he had a little business to execute for his father, about four miles off, and hoped we would excuse him for an hour. He went, and his business was to see this poor woman; and order her husband to call on him at Oxford the next morning at six, for it was but five miles from this place, and he would give him some clothes; and, that when his wife was able to travel, to bring her to Oxford, and take a lodging for her; and

and he would, among his friends, provide for him, and find some employ for her; and, giving her a guinea, he left her. He was soon back, but took no notice to us where he had been.

Thus was a humane act done, and, perhaps, a poor creature's life saved at a little expence; and how many such like acts might be done, to serve our fellow-creatures, if so much money was not badly dissipated!

Mrs. Baddeley was very chearful the whole day; said she did not intend that Mr. Baddeley should be long her master, for she would soon get rid of him. "How?" said Mr. Gill, "By a pistol?" "No," returned she, "I will sue for a divorce." "That done," replied he, "was I possessed of ten thousand pounds a year, I would lay it all at your feet;" saying, that he should be happy to marry her, if she was not possessed of a shilling. "But," continued he, "this is a hopeless wish; for, as there are so many great men your admirers, I should stand but little chance." Mrs. Baddeley smiled, and said, she thought him a good young man, and wished him to continue so, and to turn his thoughts to some woman more worthy of him.

It

It no growing late, she bad him think of returning to Oxford, as she should soon be going to bed. He then ordered his horse, and took his leave, saying he would be with us again at nine to breakfast.

When he was gone, she was incessant in his praises; and said, she would move heaven and earth to get divorced, and marry him; for, she found she loved him more than she could express.

Morning came, and Mr. Gilt at his appointed time. During breakfast the harper came again. Mrs. Baddeley went out to him, and on her return said, there was a gentleman now in the yard, playing on the harp; I went out and found it to be the poor man, very well clothed; and on my asking to whom he was obliged for them, he said the gentleman that was with us, and then told us what he had further done, as I have before related, we gave the man a guinea more, and sent him off.

Finding our horses able to travel, we went for Oxford; where, discharging our lodgings, we continued our road for London, designing to stop at the house I took near Henley, to see my family

family who was then in it. Mr. Gill begged to accompany us, and we took him in the coach.

We reached the place by dark, and continued there three days, and Mr. Gill with us. I shall not say what happened under my roof, at this place, for I mean, some time or other, to write my own history; which has been full of adventures, though not of amours, and will entertain the public greatly. I shall not say, therefore, too much of myself here.

On our departure, from this place, Mr. Gill would have accompanied us to town; but Mrs. Baddeley objected to it, and said, in her situation, it would be improper. He then requested leave to wait on us in town, which she consenting to, he took his leave, and we pursued our way to Salt-hill; where we met with Mr. John Damer. He insisted on our dining with him, which we agreed to, provided he would let us send the coach to Windsor to fetch the lady, at whose house we had all been, the last time we saw him. He consented, and she soon joined us.

A very

A very elegant and expensive dinner we had ; when over, she pressed us to go home with her, and sleep there ; and asked Mr. Damer to be of the party ; but he politely declined, as he was obliged, he said, to go back to town on business ; for he had left no orders with his clerks, and his shop-men would not know how to act without him. “ I did not understand, sir,” said she, “ that you was in business ; in what profession pray ?” He said, he was a linen-draper. We looked grave.—She then requested his address, saying she would be a customer to him. Pen and ink was accordingly called for, and he wrote down “ George Number, at St. Merry-ask, linen-draper,” saying, he should be proud of her orders, and she should be well served.—“ Oh,” says the lady, “ I know St. Mary Axe very well.”

This past ; and after tea, we took our leave of Mr. Damer and accompanied our friend to Windsor. In our way there, she observed that linen-drappers must get a vast profit on their goods, to enable them to live in such a stile, for she was sure the dinner did not cost less than ten pounds. “ Indeed,” said she, “ by his manner and polite attention, I took him for a nobleman, till he gave me his directions.—“ Nay”,

“Nay”, continued she, “he was extrava-
 “gant, for though we drank but two bottles of
 “wine, I saw six opened. This is the way
 “inn-keepers get rich !” We could no longer
 refrain from laughing, and told her that the
 gentleman had been joking with her; that he
 was the honourable John Damer, eldest son of
 Lord Milton.—“How stupid”, said our friend,
 “must I have been then ! For I recollect well
 “now, when he was at our house, that you
 “told me he was a nobleman’s son, and as to
 “his direction at St. Merry-Ark, I only con-
 “ceived him untaught, and that he did not
 “know how to spell, of course took it for St.
 “Mary Axe, near Cheapside. How will he
 “laugh at my ignorance ! I never was so taken
 “in, in my life. How will you divert your-
 “selves at my expence, when you meet him
 “again ! “No” said I, “he will think no
 “more of it, it is his usual fun.” For whenever
 he came to our house, and did not find us
 at home, and saw a strange servant, he always
 left the name of some tradesman, and said he
 brought a bill for payment.

We slept that night at Windsor, and on our
 return to London, met with a parcel of Gipsies,
 who asked to tell our fortune. We stopped the
 coach,

coach, and a woman who undertook it, ran on with a parcel of nonsense, that is not worth repeating; however, it made us laugh, and kept up our spirits, till we got home, where we heard Lord Melbourne had been twice, wondering what had become of us; Lord Palmerston, once; Mr. Conway, three times; Mr. Montagu, Lord Clanbrasil, the Marquis of Carmarthen, the Duke of Northumberland's gentleman, Lord Pigot, Sir Thomas Mills, Admiral Spry, and many others.

Lord Melbourne was very inquisitive, and seemed much hurt that Mrs. Baddeley could give no better account of her journey. Who went with her to Oxford? Where did she go from Oxford? And, many other questions.

She told his Lordship that she spent her time with my family, in the neighbourhood of Henley and the like. "Well," said he, "I must leave you again; for Sir Matthew Featherstone, my Lady's father, is ill, and at my house at Bocket-hall, and I must go down to him." He soon after left us, and Mrs. Baddeley was happy he was gone.

Having

Having some money of Mrs. Baddeley's in my possession, lest she should be tempted by any new whim to lay it out improperly; I thought it best to pay it away, where it was owing, and proposed settling with the builder, for the additions he had made to Hammer-smith house, which Mrs. Baddeley designed to pay. And when I looked over the bills, I was amazed; they came to seven hundred and fifty-nine pounds, eleven shillings and eight-pence. My surprize at this, made me fly to her to tell her of it.

She received the intelligence with great unconcern; said, we had a lease of it, and that it was now a good house, and I must set it down to the article of her extravagance: but, that I must not pay away the money I had, till she got more; for, Lord Melbourne's expence about his house in Piccadilly, had occasioned his not being so bountiful to her as he had been — “However,” added she, “if he does not think of us soon, you must remind him.” I replied, that I should not, as he had not kept his word with me, though he had been bountiful to her. His Lordship promised to pay my rent, and had not done even that. Mrs. Baddeley said, she would pay the rent herself. I told her
in

in future, when she wished any thing from Lord Melbourne, the best way would be to write a line, and I would give it him. To this she acquiesced, and I then told her, I would call in all the bills where any thing was owing, and try if we could not get them paid. Expences for house-keeping, and other daily expences, were paid weekly.

On calling in the bills, I found them as follow, and the whole to have been run up in the course of three years :

	£.	s.	d.
Miss Blace, milliner, by balance	120	0	0
Mrs. Bowen, ditto	218	18	10
Mrs. Titherfon, ditto	180	11	0
Mr. Price, ditto, by balance of 700l.	230	0	0
Mr. King, mercer, by balance of more than 1200l.	290	0	0
Mr. Titterfon, woollen-draper	40	10	0
Mr. Burnell, silver-lace-man	30	10	0
Mr. Campbell, coach-maker	200	19	0
Mr. Dyford, and Mr. Clark, shoe-makers	20	14	0
Mr. Rolson, hatter	29	10	0
Mr. Evans, linen-draper	140	0	0
Carried over	1501	12	10
Brought			

MRS. SOPHIA BADDELEY. 93

			£.	s.	d.
	Brought over		1501	12	10
Mr. King, hoop-maker	—		8	10	0
Mr. Tutt, trimming-broker	—		18	12	0
Mr. Jefferey, jeweller, by balance			180	12	0
Mrs. Whitelock, mantua-maker	—		10	14	0
Mrs. Humphries, hofier and glover			20	11	0
Perfumers bills	—	—	30	19	0
Builders bills	—	—	759	11	8
Stable rent	—	—	18	0	0
Cornfactors, in balance	—	—	48	0	0
Hay and straw	—	—	10	0	0
Farrier's bills, in balance	—	—	10	0	0
Flowerist, in ditto	—	—	18	0	0
China-man, in ditto	—	—	10	10	0
Flambeaux for one year	—	—	20	12	0
			£.2666	4	6

These bills were only in balance of more than eight thousand pounds, incurred in the time, without any expences of house-keeping, furniture, and the principal part of her diamonds, wages, journeys, expences at public places, and horses.

Though Lord Melbourne did not enable me to pay the above, Mrs. Baddeley did not abate in

in her expences ; but rather encreased them for some time, till a stop was put to it, which the reader will hereafter be informed of. My mind was very uneasy on account of this great sum owing ; for, till I had called the bills together, I was not aware of their amount.

On my shewing them to Mrs. Baddeley, she laughed, and said, they were only a milk-score to Lord Melbourne ; but, I told her, it was my opinion he would never pay them. “ If he won’t,” returned she, “ I will pay them myself.”

She now began to think of her divorce, and I advised her to consult Mr. Dunning, late Lord Ashburton. She went to his house, and had his opinion, but he would take nothing from her. He told her he had doubts of her success, for reasons she must excuse his giving ; but, there was a chance, if she had a mind to try it ; and, if she would send an able attorney to him, he would direct him how to act, and give her all the assistance in his power. She accordingly applied to an attorney, said, no money should be wanting ; and he promised to see Mr. Dunning, and to let her know the result.

In the evening, we went to the play, and Mr. Storer came into the box, and sat by us the whole evening. What was the cause I know not, but she was not so attentive to him as she used to be, left the house before the entertainment began; and, when he handed her to the carriage, and would have accompanied her home, she pleaded an engagement, and parted with him. Going home, she told me she would have staid the entertainment, but finding the people of fashion noticing Mr. Storer, she thought it better to retire.

On our return home we found Baron Dieck, the Danish ambassador, had called. This gentleman, among others, though I have not named him before, was one of Mrs. Baddeley's admirers.

She received a letter this evening from Mr. Gill, saying, he was impatient to hear of her suing for a divorce, as he should be frantic till it was obtained. "Now," said she, "I hate all mankind, for I look round, and round, and find no face like his."

Next morning her attorney waited on her, said he had seen Mr. Dunning; that there was a probability

a probability of success in the attempt, but he could not say more to *her* on the occasion. She then left the room, and he told me, that Mr. Dunning was of opinion, as Mrs. Baddeley was so well known to have committed adultery herself, the court would not take that notice of her complaint, so as to avail her in such a manner as to dissolve her marriage; but should they not take her conduct into consideration, she would succeed; "therefore," said he, "it depends on chance. So, that if Mrs. Baddeley makes the attempt, and her plea falls to the ground, she must not blame me." I promised to consult her, and he was to call again the next day.

Baron Diede now called again, he was a polite little man, we saw him; and as he had some friends to dine with him next day, hoped we would do him the honour to be of the party. We accepted the invitation and he left us.

Not recollecting this gentleman, she told me we had frequently met him at houses where we dined,, and he had been at our house more than once. "He has frequently been at our lodgings," said she, "when I lived with Mr. Hanger; and he came once here when

" Mr.

“Mr. Thurlow was with us, now Lord Chancellor.” “I recollect it now,” said I “well.” “Yes,” replied she, “and you must recollect that Mr. Thurlow was with us an hour and a half, and in all that time, did not exchange twenty words. He was cried up as a sensible man; but I could only judge of his sense by his silence. And he could not be a great admirer of the ladies.” “Remember,” said I, “a close mouth makes a wise head. Besides, being introduced by Mr. Hanger to his favourite lady, it would have been forward and impertinent in him, to have engrossed the conversation, or have made his friend uneasy by any studied attention to *you*; and I wish men of rank would all follow his example; there would not be then so many trifling and treacherous characters.”

Mrs. Baddeley was now applied to by a man, who had formerly been her servant, to procure him a protection from arrest, from some of the ambassadors. Wishing always to serve the unfortunate, she cried out, “There is old Count Haslang will do it for me, (who was the Bavarian Minister,) “if I ask him; for he is full of his compliment to me, at

“all public places. I will write a line to
“him.” I encouraged her to this, and she
gave the man a letter, to take to him. He
presently returned and said, the Count sent
for him up, and told him, he would, with plea-
sure, comply with Mrs. Baddeley’s request, and
he might call for it the next day; and, “pray
“friend,” said he, “make my compliments to
“her, and tell her I will wait on her as soon
“as possible.” Nay” said the poor man, half
wild with joy, “he will be here, I suppose, in
“a few minutes, for his chariot and three foot-
“men were waiting at the door. In hopes of
“being here before him,” said he, “I ran
“over an old woman in Bondstreet, and
“threw down her barrow of fruit in the street.
“She cried out, ‘Stop thief, stop thief,’
“and I have been pursued to your very door.”
We could not help laughing at the incident,
but sent our servant to find the woman,
and gave her a couple of shillings to make
her amends. She abused the poor man much,
but our servant saying he was running for a
midwife, and had sent that money to make
good her loss; from curses, she proceeded to bles-
sings, and he who was, in her opinion, a few
minutes before, the vilest dog, was now the
best of men: so great a change in our way of
thinking,

thinking, will a little money, seasonably given, occasion.

Whilst we were in conversation with this man, Count Haflang's carriage stopped at the door. He came in and brought the protection with him; for, as he protected so many, I believe he kept them ready written; and it required only to fill up the blanks to serve particular purposes. It must have been so, for he was with us almost as soon as the man. Presenting the paper to Mrs. Baddeley, he told her he was happy it was in his power to oblige her, and he blessed the occasion that gave him an opportunity of paying his respects to her; for he long wished to say how much she was in his esteem.

She, going to take her cat from the sofa, that the Count might not sit down on it, he took her by the hand, and begged the favour of a salute, which she a little angrily refused, and in order to get her hand from him, gave it a sudden jerk, by which the Baron lost his equilibrium, and his foot being entangled in the train of her sacque, fell all along upon the floor, crying out he had hurt his back. I was ready to sink with laughing; Mrs. Bad-

deley ran out of the parlour, and I was doing all in my power to get the old gentleman up. She returned and said, she had been to fetch her man to assist him; but she had, in fact, been out of the room to laugh. As neither of us had strength to lift him up, and he was unable to rise of himself, we were obliged to call the maids. We at last got him into a chair, apologizing for the accident, and hoped he was not hurt. He said a little on his back; we called for some rum to bathe it, but he declined our good offices, and said he would go home, and send for his doctor, and he had no doubt he should soon get well; when he would do himself the honour of paying us a second visit.

He then hobbled to his carriage, and ordered himself to be driven gently home. When he was gone, we fell into such an immoderate fit of laughter, at the accident of the Baron, and his newly protected servant, whose hands and clothes were besmeared with dirt, by his fall with the old woman, that our maids laughed as heartily as we did. The girls declared the Count had stays on; of course was more frightened than hurt. When the poor man had washed off the dirt, we sent for him up, and

and gave him his protection, which he received with gratitude, and a look of heartfelt ease, that smoothed a brow, furrowed before with anxiety. "I will now" said he, "go and show my face at home, which I have not been able to do, in a week-day, for some time." "But, don't run," said I, "as you did here, for, if you do more mischief in your way, you will get into jail in spite of your protection."

We sent some time after to Count Haslang's, to enquire how he did, and found he was gone to bed; he returned his kind compliments, and said he was poorly.

The favour, however, Mrs. Baddeley asked of him, did not end here; for, as soon as he was able to go abroad, though we were constantly denied to him, he was with us every day for a month together.

We now received the following letter from Lord Melbourne.

"My Love,

"I fear I cannot see you to-night.

"I am just come to town to attend Lady

F 3

"Melbourne

“ Melbourne to her father, who is come to
“ town not well, and I fear it will make it
“ *two* late to be able to call on my dear love;
“ if I do not, I will be with you to-morrow,
“ if I can, before you are up.

“ Your’s ever,

“ Melbourne.”

To Mrs. Baddeley.

According to our engagement, we dined with Baron Dieck. The company consisted of all the foreign ministers, and the late Lord Falmouth. When we sat down to dinner, one of the gentlemen enquired where Count Haslang was, that he was not of the party. The Baron replied, that he had that day received a letter from him, saying, he was confined to his bed, from a fall he had received, and had so much hurt his back, that he could not turn himself.

I dared not look at Mrs. Baddeley; certain, if I had, that we could not have avoided laughing. Lord Falmouth, said, he had seen him that morning, and he was very ill, and on being asked how he met with the accident, replied, his foot slipped in getting into his chariot. The dinner was splendid and elegant, and

and a band of soft music, in the next room, playing the whole time. When dinner was over, we retired to the music, and Mrs. Baddeley sung many songs. Cards were then introduced, supper succeeded, and thus the evening closed.

This meeting introduced Mrs. Baddeley to all the diplomatic body, who were afterwards our visitants, and very polite to her.

As to Lord Falmouth, who was an admirer of the ladies, he was frequently at our house.

In our way home, Mrs. Baddeley declared she had bitten her cheeks till they were sore, to prevent her from laughing.

On our return, we found cards from many, from Sir Francis Molineux, and particularly the Duke of Manchester, the latter of whom was always ready to oblige Mrs. Baddeley in any thing she asked, and she frequently applied to him in behalf of her friends, who wanted assistance in different ways; for, never in her life, did she refuse a good office to those who solicited her, where it was in her power to do it.

We sent daily to enquire how Count Haflang did, and was unhappy to find, this fall had confined him to his house near three weeks.

Lord Melbourne returned from the country; came to see his dear love, and staid two hours; said to me, he supposed I was a bankrupt; that he had no money about him, but would return in the evening and bring me some.

We now took an airing into Hyde-park, and there saw a pretty girl, well dressed, sitting on the grass, near the ring. I bad Mrs. Baddeley take notice of her. She seemed to be about seventeen years of age, very unhappy, and to be the daughter of some reputable tradesman.—
 “Let us go out,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “and walk by her;” we did, and I asked her, if she was ill. “Yes, ladies,” returned she, “I am very ill, and wish myself dead.”
 “For what reason?” said Mrs. Baddeley. She then burst into tears, and cried bitterly.

We sat down on the grass by her, and begged she would tell us what made her unhappy, and we would be friends to her if we could; and she might assure herself, if her tale required secrecy, it should go no further. Our coach
 and

and servants were then at a distance. She told us her name was Harriot Brown, that she was the daughter of an eminent linen-draper, in the city; that her father had three servant-men, one of whom she unfortunately fell in love with; that he kept her company two years, in a virtuous way, "For I meant" said she, "to marry him. This came to my father's ears, and he got him pressed and sent to sea; and, on my saying I would follow him, if I knew where to find him, he, in a great passion, turned me out of his house. I was so unhappy at this, that I did not care what became of me.—I have now been from my dear father three days, and nothing but water have I had; and this park has been my refuge. At night I get to that stable, and that I may not be seen there, I am out before day break. I am so wretched, that I have thought several times of putting an end to my life; but, something forbad it."

At the recital of this story, our hearts yearned for her; and, we told her, if she would go home with us, we would undertake to set all things to rights again. She replied, "Oh, no, dear ladies, I am only fit to wander life away in some desert; for, to me it is not worth

“the holding.” We determined, however, to take her home with us, give her some refreshment, put her into a comfortable bed, and not leave her till we could see her father; and, if he would not receive her, endeavour to do something for her; and this we promised upon our words and honour: she therefore, agreed to go with us; the coach was called, and we got in. She was very thankful, and said, Providence surely had sent us to her protection. Her distress brought tears into our own eyes; we made much of her, and when we reached home, we ordered a fire in the bed-chamber we designed for her, gave her some refreshment, and attended her to bed, where we sat down by her, and told her, we were certain her father must be distracted about her. She said, her mother was at Margate, for the benefit of sea-bathing; that, did she know she was turned out of doors, she would not live a day; and then she burst into tears again, and we sympathised with her. I begged Mrs. Baddeley to continue with her, and I would go to her father. She said, her father was a passionate man, and would probably affront me. I told her, I should not mind that, provided I could bring about a reconciliation; but, that I persuaded myself, he would be happy

happy to see me, for the relief I should bring him, in telling him she was safe.

I set off to her father's with all the expedition I could make, our carriage being then at the door, considering in the way how I should explain matters.

When I reached his house, I went into the warehouse, and enquired for him. The warehouse-man said, he was at home, but could not be spoke to on any business; but if I would give him my commands, he would execute them the same as if his master was present. I begged to know if Mrs. Brown could be spoke to. He said she was at Margate. I then asked for Miss. "Ah," said he, "ma'am," shaking his head, "I wish Miss *was* in the way!—I "perceive you know the family.—Have you "heard any thing of Miss Brown's being from "home?" Wishing to hear all I could, I asked how long she had been absent.—"Three "days," returned he, "and no one that we "know has seen her. My master can hear "nothing of her, and is almost distracted; for "he raves at times like a mad-man, and des- "pairs of ever seeing her again; of course "ma'am, you will now judge how unfit he is
" to

“to be spoke with on business.” “I am sorry,” replied I, “to hear all this, but must see him notwithstanding; and the sooner the better; therefore, pray shew me to him, and I will take upon me to say, he will not be displeased with you.”

I, at last, prevailed with him, and he shewed me up to a large room, where sat a decent creditable person, having his night-cap and morning-gown on, with a handkerchief up to his face, and in a melancholy posture. He rose from his seat, and requested me to sit down.—

I begged pardon for my intrusion; but, having something to communicate, which I flattered myself would give him comfort, was the cause of it.

“Alas, madam,” said he, “I have need of that, for you see before you as miserable a man as breathes.—Pray tell me good lady, do you know any thing of my lost child?” “I do Sir,” returned I, “and have to tell you she is well.” “God be praised then!” exclaimed he; “I am happy.—This, madam, is real comfort.—Where is she? Am I in my senses or not!” He ran about the room half

half wild, and then sat down to thank me for the information, and begged I would tell him all I knew about her, and where he could go and fetch her home ; saying, she was an only child, and tenderly did he bring her up ; that he had been working many years for her : that all he had she would one day enjoy ; and that of course, he wished her well settled in life, and to be the wife of some man of credit and reputation ; instead of which, she had frustrated all his hopes, by falling in love with one of his shopmen, whom she had agreed to marry privately.

“ Being informed of this, said he, I was offended ; and in heat of anger, from some words she made use of, bid her get out of my house, and never let me see her more. She, foolish girl, rashly took me at my word, and went away, and though I have searched all London after her, could hear nothing of her. This, madam, was the cause of my unhappiness. My hastiness has been it's own punishment ; for like a too fond father,”—(here he burst into tears, and I could not but do the same), “ like a too fond father—I feel I love her, in spite of her perverseness.”—

“ Come

“Come then, Sir,” said I, “with me, and I will bring you to her.—I have a coach at the door at your service.”

He put on his coat, and was ready in five minutes; telling his servant he should return in an hour or two,

When he saw the carriage and the servants, he begged my ladyship’s pardon, and apologized for his want of respect: I told him that I was not honoured with a title, but nevertheless was happy I had it in my power to make him so.—

“For God’s sake, my dear madam,” said he, “where did you meet with my daughter?” For he could now talk to me with composure; and was quite another man. I told him, when he saw her, he should know the whole, and begged him, till then, to rest easy; for that he would soon be with her.

When we reached home, he was conducted up to his daughter, who was then in bed. He flew to her, took her in his arms, kissed her, and cried over her: and this meeting is better conceived than described. She hung round his neck,

neck, wept bitterly ; and, as well as she could utter her words, craved her father's pardon, and his blessing to an unworthy daughter.

“ Yes, my dear child,” returned he, “ with
“ all your faults, and all your indiscretions, I
“ feel I am still your father, and cannot but for-
“ give you. My rashness proceeded from the
“ warmth of my affection to you ; and if you
“ must throw yourself away, I fear I must sub-
“ mit to it.”

“ Dear Sir,” returned she, “ talk not in that
“ strain, I will endeavour to think better ;
“ and, if possible, deserve the love you have
“ this day shewn me.”

This affecting interview brought tears from us all ; but they were soon changed into joy.—

Dinner had been waiting some time. The young lady rose, and dressed herself ; and she and her father dined with us.

After dinner, Miss retired for a few minutes, and we told Mr. Brown every thing that passed, and he would have fallen on his knees to thank us, if we had not prevented him.

When

When Miss returned, he took her again into his arms, and wept over her with joy. She then fell on her knees, thanked him for his tenderness to her, who so little deserved it, and hoped, that he would conceal the story from her dear mother, lest it should make her as unhappy as it had done him.

Mr. Browne, now wishing to return home, our coach was ordered; and with a thousand thanks and blessings on us both, the young lady saying, she owed her life to us, and her father declaring we had restored all he held dear on earth, this affectionate couple took their leave; and the self-gratification this scene afforded, increased our desire of doing further good, and made us search for occasions.—

There is scarce a person living, but has, at times, opportunities of relieving the distressed, and gladdening the afflicted; and, I am persuaded, if men were but conscious of the secret pleasure it affords, independent of the reward religion promises, they would never slip the happy moment; and, it is but justice, due to Mr. Brown, and his family, to say, that they shewed us their friendship on all occasions, and he was grateful to the hour of his death.

Miss

Miss afterwards married a tradesman in good circumstances, with the approbation of her father, but died in child-bed.

This event had brought on such a self-complacency in Mrs. Baddeley and myself, as made us wish to employ the evening uninterrupted in our own reflections; but, Lord Melbourne came and discomposed us. He came in haste, he said, just to keep his word, and bring us some money; that he left his company at the play-house, and must instantly return.

This said, he gave me a paper rolled up, saying, I must do with that as well as I could for the present, and in a few days I should have more.

When he was gone, I gave it to Mrs. Baddeley, and she opened it: finding it contained only one hundred and fifty pounds, she exclaimed, "Here's a falling off, indeed!—" "You must now," said I, "be more prudent, or how will your debts be paid? Let us put an end to some of our expences; let us keep fewer servants." "O, God," returned she, "then we shall have nothing decent about us." "—I cannot consent to this."—"Well, then,"

“ then,” said I, “ be less expensive in your
“ dress. Confine it to five hundred pounds a
“ year.” “ Christ,” exclaimed she, “ that is
“ not enough for millinery !” “ It does not
“ signify,” returned I, “ stop you must, or
“ ruin will ensue.” “ I cannot,” said she,
“ nor will I be abridged in my dress.—One
“ may as well be dead as not in the fashion, and
“ I am determined I will follow them all.”—

I told her, if she thought of marrying, she
must find a way to get out of debt, or the Lord
have mercy on the poor man who was to be her
husband, for he would soon be in a jail.

“ That, indeed,” returned she, “ must be
“ well considered, for I would not injure Mr.
“ Gill for the world. Poor dear young fellow !
“ I know money will procure any thing, and,
“ if it costs me a thousand pounds, I will have
“ a divorce ; but be assured, my dear Steele,
“ let that take place when it will, I never will
“ think of marrying, till I am entirely free
“ from debt.”

“ Then,” said I, “ the way to begin, is to
“ pay away what we have, as far as it will

“ go

"go; for every bill we pay, will make the debt less."

"No," replied she, "I won't suffer a shilling to be paid, till I get more money. I think it is proper I should have some money in my pocket; give me fifty pounds, and I will handseal my new purse for luck, and you shall see how careful I will be of it."

This served only to gratify every idle, extravagant thought; for, in the morning, I was called from breakfast to a Mrs. Millidge, a dancer of Drury-lane Theatre, of whom Mrs. Baddeley had some time before agreed to take a set of Worlidge's gems; and, whilst I was paying her, and talking to her about theatrical matters, which might detain me about three-quarters of an hour, she had purchased eight white mice, with red eyes; a handsome squirrel cage to keep them in; a silver collar and bell for her cat, and new cages for all her birds. I hated mice. She said, they cost her but two pounds twelve shillings, and if I disliked them, she would give them to my sister.

In short, in four days, of her fifty pounds, she had not a shilling left; and, when I represented

presented to her the madness of thus squandering her money, and particularly at a time it was so much wanted, and without having any thing to shew for it; she acknowledged the truth of it, threw me her empty purse, and said, I might keep it for her folly.

Lord Falmouth now paid us a visit, and told us, Count Haslang had paid dear for his frolick, (for he had been made acquainted with the circumstance) saying, he had no rest since it happened; for the pain in his back, which was also attended with a pain of mind; for he was at the same time desperately in love with Mrs. Baddeley, and begged of him to declare it; “and, indeed,” said his Lordship, to Mrs. Baddeley, “he has employed a very improper advocate, for I am over head and ears in love with you myself.”

Mrs. Baddeley smiled, and said, he was paying his lady a very poor compliment, to leave so amiable a woman, to place his affections upon her.

“I am not alone in opinion,” returned his Lordship, “for you are so engaging, and bewitching.”

“witching a creature, that half the world is
“in love with you.”

Mrs. Baddeley reasoned so sensibly with him
on this subject, that his Lordship candidly con-
fessed he thought himself at liberty to rove as
he pleased; and told her the following story,
which he assured her to be a fact.

“When first I saw Lady Falmouth,” said
he, “she was a pretty girl, and being then
“young myself, I made proposals to her to live
“with me, but did not think of her as a wife.
“She would not listen to me in this respect,
“but I omitted no steps to bring her over to
“my wishes, and at last succeeded.

“However, like the rest of our ungrateful
“sex, a little time weaned my affections, and
“she became indifferent to me, though her af-
“fection for me did not abate. I must own
“myself in fault, and perhaps should have re-
“lented, but she afterwards played me a trick,
“which I never have forgiven, nor ever will.

“She was taken ill of a fever, and was ap-
“parently so bad as to be thought in danger.
“Every necessary assistance she had, at my re-
“quest,

“ quest, and she got better: she then applied to
“ her physician, brought him over to her inter-
“ est, and persuaded him to say, and tell me,
“ that there was no hopes of her recovery;
“ that her fever was increased by her unhap-
“ piness of mind, conscious of having lived
“ with me in sin, she could not die in peace,
“ unless I would condescend to send her to
“ the grave an honest woman.

“ This circumstance had such an effect with
“ me, as to make me rather unhappy also;
“ and, I was induced by her intreaties, the
“ persuasions of her physician, and the assur-
“ ances I had from him, that she could not re-
“ cover; to send for a licentiate and clergyman,
“ and marry her.

“ The ceremony was no sooner over, than
“ she visibly grew better, had the impudence to
“ tell her nurse, that she affected this illness
“ to answer the purpose she wished; and, the
“ next day, when I returned home to dinner,
“ I found her in full health, and at the head of
“ my table. She now told me she was a happy
“ woman, and from that time made me know
“ that she was my wife. The deception she
“ made use of, I would never forgive, and her

“ Lady-

"Ladyship and I have never lived happily
"since."

"If your Lordship," replied Mrs. Baddeley,
"would not be offended with me, I would give
"you my sentiments on this subject." He
should be glad, he said, to hear them.

"Now, my Lord," returned she, "if the
"deceitful trick your lady played, is, as you
"acknowledge, the cause of your present un-
"happiness, how much cause had she to be an-
"gry with you, for violating her honour, un-
"der the specious pretence of love and affec-
"tion; when you could think proper to desert
"her, and almost occasion her death? And,
"because she thought proper to secure you to
"herself, by an artifice, that any honest wo-
"man would glory in, you now tell me you
"despise her. For shame, my lord!—never
"mention this story again for your own sake.
"Your lady certainly deserves you, and you
"cannot do enough to convince her of it."—
"I am sorry," said his Lordship, "that you
"and I differ in opinion, therefore we will talk
"no more of it."

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley then went to her harpsichord, and his Lordship finding no attention was paid by her to his declarations, soon made his bow and left her.

We next ordered our carriage, and went to Hammersmith; where a young gentleman called on us, said his name was Colonel Harcourt, and wished to know, as we were so little at that house, whether we were disposed to let it, saying, he would give us what rent we pleased.— This was only a pretence for introducing himself to Mrs. Baddeley, in order to declare an attachment which hundreds had done before; but, he was soon given to understand, that her affections were fixed and immoveable; and, on my reminding her, that she was to be in town at a certain hour, he politely took his leave.

Stopping, in our way home, at a shop in Kensington; we met Mr. Thomas Stanley; this gentleman was a Major in the 79th regiment, and died at Jamaica. He was the brother of the present Lord Derby. He asked us to walk into Kensington-gardens; but, on our declining it, said, he had seen Mrs. Baddeley the other day at her window, in Grafton-street, wished

wished for an opportunity to speak to her, but dared not, and hoped she would permit him to wait on her at some future time. She replied, he might call if he pleased, but as she was seldom at home, he would probably not meet with her.

On our return home we found the following card from Lord Falmouth :

" Lord Falmouth presents his compliments to Mrs. Baddeley, and if she is not engaged this evening, will do himself the honour to wait on her."

" *St. James's-square.*

" *Thursday, three o'clock.*"

To which she returned as follows.

" Mrs. Baddeley's compliments wait on Lord Falmouth, informs him she is engaged this evening, but will be happy to see his Lordship at any other time."

" *Grafton-street,*

" *Thursday, five o'clock.*"

Baron Dieck called, was admitted and drank tea with us; his visit was to make a proposal to Mrs. Baddeley, to go abroad with him, saying, she should share his fortune; but to this application she was also deaf; and declaring she was engaged, he requested he might then be admitted into the list of her friends, and be permitted to call on her occasionally. Mrs. Baddeley's answer was, that his polite behaviour to her at all times, commanded her respect, and she should be proud of the honour of classing him among those whom she most esteemed.

It was now nine o'clock, but notwithstanding this, Mr. Storer called, dressed more like a dancing-master than any thing else; having set wheels to his shoes. He danced and sung and jumped about the room; and said he was a happy fellow to catch us at home disengaged; and hoped Mrs. Baddeley was out of leading-strings; alluding to my opposition to his seeing her.—
“Yes,” returned I to him, “she can go without being led by you.” He replied “he did not mean to offend me.” “But Sir,” returned I, “I mean to offend you, and must tell you, that your coming here is not at all agreeable to me.”—“I cannot help it ma'am,” said he, humming a tune; “I must come where
Mrs.

“ Mrs. Baddeley is, for I will see her as often as I chuse.”——“ Indeed you will not,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “ for I do assure you, such behaviour to Mrs. Steele, is an affront to me.” “ I beg Mrs. Steele’s pardon,” returned he, “ I never wish to say a rude thing to *her*, if she does not begin with me.” “ Madam,” continued he, addressing himself to me, “ Mrs. Baddeley and I are better acquainted than you suppose.”——I told him I did not understand him, nor did I wish to do it; and hoped he would not put me under the necessity of behaving to him in a manner I was not disposed to do. He begged my pardon, said, it was true that he was in my house, but that notwithstanding, he would take no denial to see his dear angel, for see her he must and would, at the risk of his life. At this he contemptuously danced round the room, and hummed a tune like an opera dancer. Upon my saying he kept us at home, he replied, “ Do I?—Then I’ll take myself off, which is what you wish;——” “ so good night, my dear Mrs. Baddeley!”——and to me, “ good night, sweet nurse!” and off he went.

When he was gone, I asked Mrs. Baddeley what he meant by saying, he and she was

better acquainted than I supposed. She replied, he was a villain for that; she could explain it, but was too much ashamed of his behaviour to her to mention it. In short I found what he said to be too true, and told her we must not suffer him to come any more to our house.

The next morning we went to a sale of pictures, at Christie's, in Pall-mall. The room was crowded with persons of distinction. Mr. Thomas Stanley joined us, and continued with us all the time we were there, and seeing Mrs. Baddeley admire a picture of a miser, he bought it, and made her a present of it. Sir Cecil Bishop, also observing her to notice two pictures of fruit, purchased them, and sent them home to her. On leaving the room, Mr. Stanley handed her to her carriage.

On our return home, we found Admiral Spry, who came to dine with us uninvited. He acquainted us with an odd accident that happened in his way to our house. "Whenever I see any
 " barbarity used to horses, I always make a
 " point," said he, "of putting a stop to it.
 " As I came through Bond-street, a dray man
 " was beating his horses unmercifully, so that
 " the lookers on said, it was a shame; this
 " did

" did not check him, but he went to the fore-
 " horse, and kicked him and beat him about
 " the head with all his strength. Three wo-
 " men standing by me, I said, I would give a
 " guinea, if any one would take his whip
 " from him, and give it him well. One of
 " the women replied, ' Give us, your honour,
 " but half the money, and we will warm him
 " to your satisfaction.' I promised them I would,
 " and one of them went up to him, snatched
 " the whip from him, and whilst the other two
 " held him, laced him so soundly on the legs,
 " and back, till he cried out for mercy.—
 ' Mercy, you dog !' said she, ' Shew mercy to
 ' your horses, and then you would not deserve
 ' such correction !' In short the more he cried,
 " the more she whipped him, till I interfered,
 " and said he had had enough of it. The men
 " who stood by, took the part of the women,
 " and broke his whip to pieces. I gave the
 " women the guinea with pleasure ; for every
 " person present seemed to enjoy the man's pu-
 " nishment ; and I believe he will remember
 " this day as long as he lives."

The Admiral told us he was going to the Me-
 diterranean ; said, he should be gone six weeks,
 and if we were disposed for a trip to sea in fine

weather, he should be glad of our company. He left us, with saying, Mrs. Baddeley was an errant thief, and it was a sin in her to rob an old man of his *heart*, when he did not know how soon he might be attacked by the enemy, and should be in want of it.

We went to the play; brought Lord Melbourne home with us; and when we reached Grafton-street, found the cook had fired the kitchen-chimney, and the house full of all sorts of rabble. They had extinguished the fire, but at our loss of a silver candlestick. And during this confusion, Lord Lyttelton, who was going by, got out of his carriage to offer his assistance, but Mrs. Baddeley was inattentive to all but her cats; and her favourite one had, I apprehended, run up a chimney; for it was so black, that she spoiled a beautiful white satin petticoat she had on, by taking it in her lap.

Lord Melbourne, saying he should go into the country for a week, we proposed to go down to my house near Henley; and Mrs. Baddeley wrote to Mr. Gill to meet her there. Mr. Stanley called the next morning; was warm in his addresses to her, and acted so ungentleman-like, that she reprimanded him in a manner that

that did her credit. He begged her pardon, and they parted friends.

We were visited, at this time, by most of the foreign ministers; but the Neapolitan ambassador, in 1773, was an eternal plague to us; he was ever at the door, and would take no denial, nor could we affront him, say what we would. At this gentleman we had many a laugh; for, when he was with us, at every rap at the door, he would have run in a dust-hole, rather than be seen. One day, having a mind to make ourselves merry at his expence, we ordered our servant to rap loud at the door, and say Lord March was come. The ambassador was for secretting himself, ran into the back parlour, and we put him into a closet, where we locked him in, and it was so small that he could not turn himself within. In this situation we kept him half an hour; Baddeley and I laughing till our sides ached.

When we thought we had confined him long enough; the outer door was shut to hard, as if his Lordship was gone, and we let his Excellency out, who said, he was happy to be hid in any place, but that the cupboard was so small, that he could not stir one way or the other.

I asked him what reason he had for hiding himself at all ; that we were not accustomed to such doings, nor should I have consented to it, but to see how far his alarm would carry him.— That no gentleman who honoured Mrs. Baddeley with his visits, was ashamed to be seen with her. Indeed they are happy to be with her, and would be much oftener than they are, if she was not denied to them. “ If you will
“ give me leave, Sir,” said I, “ to pass my
“ conjectures on your conduct, without of-
“ fence, I would tell you, Sir, that either you
“ live with some favourite lady, whom you are
“ fearful may hear of your frequent visits here;
“ or you are like those who might wish to be
“ shut up, that while such and such are pre-
“ sent, you are secreted, to lead them to think
“ you are indulged with favours never bestow-
“ ed ; but, that this closet affair may lose it’s
“ effect, please to take notice, Sir, that no
“ one was here ; that, as you wished to be hid
“ I did not oppose it for the laugh’s sake ; and
“ as it was done by your own request, you
“ must pardon the frolic.” “ And so then,”
replied he, “ Mrs. Baddeley and you have
“ been diverting yourselves at my expence ?
“ Well, I give you credit for the thought,
“ and depend on it one time or other, it shall
“ not

“ not go unrewarded.—Why did you not keep
 “ me there longer? I should not have been
 “ angry, and believe me, whatever you may
 “ think, I am not the man who would betray
 “ the confidence a lady might repose in me.”

In short, though I perceived him a little hurt,
 he carried it off with great good humour, and
 politely took his leave. This was high glee to
 Mrs. Baddeley, who, for a long time after,
 would occasionally play the part of the Neapolitan ambassador, and hide herself in the closet.

We had scarce got out of this mirth, before
 Lord Melbourne came to take his leave. We
 told him what had passed, and he laughed
 heartily, and when he went, said, “ Be sure,
 “ Steele, keep off all the d—ned dogs till my
 “ return, and put the ambassador under lock
 “ and key.”

“ Now,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “ he is gone
 “ for eight days, and not a word about mo-
 “ ney: well, I must be contented till I see his
 “ will, which I hope will not be long first.
 “ Next, for our journey to Henley, and a fight
 “ of Mr. Gill; though, between you and I,
 “ Steele, (laughing) I do not think so much
 “ of him as I did.” “ It is well, replied I,

“ that you do not, for you may yet be disappointed; and, as this is the case, we may as well defer our journey.” “ No,” returned she, “ not for worlds; I would not miss the opportunity of seeing the dear creature on any account, for have him I will, as soon as my debts are paid; and I will be candid, and tell him the true cause why it is so likely to be deferred.”

This night we were for the opera, but presently came a person, who asked to see Mrs. Baddeley, and whose name was Le Due, and whom we recollected to be the King's taylor at Paris, of whom we purchased the trimmings. He had, he said, something of consequence to impart, and of course was admitted. He was dressed like a nobleman; and, on being requested to sit down, did not immediately seat himself as an English taylor would have done, but politely declined, saying, the honour was too great for men in his situation to think of. She insisted on his sitting, and asked him, what fashions he had brought with him; he said, he had brought none with him at present, but was going back to Paris immediately, and should return in a fortnight and bring plenty with him; but, that

that his business was now of another nature, which he hoped Mrs. Baddeley would pardon him, if it did not meet with her approbation.

“ This lady, I presume,” said he, addressing himself to Mrs. Baddeley, and alluding to me, “ is your friend ?”—On her saying, I was, and all he had to say, might be said before me; he continued, “ His Majesty of France, Madam, has a great desire to see you; and I am commissioned to propose your coming over to Paris, with the utmost expedition, where he will provide for you for life, in a state becoming a lady under his protection; and, if you think proper to comply with this request of his, and agree to set off for Paris in a day or two, I have orders to let you have any sum of money you want, and to deliver you a letter. In this case I can take upon me to say, you will be a happy lady; for he is a good king, and the best of friends, where his fancy leads.” Mrs. Baddeley, replied, “ His Majesty of France might have spared himself this trouble, and I can give him my answer immediately, if you are commissioned to carry it.” He said he was. “ Then, please Sir, make my respectful compliments to his Majesty of France, and tell
“ him,

“ him, I thank him for the honour of his in-
“ vitation, but as I have seen enough of his
“ country, and am sufficiently satisfied with
“ my own, I shall not think of leaving it.”
On this she rose from her seat, and left him,
with “ Good morning to you, Mr. Le Duc—
“ When you come to England again, to con-
“ vince you I am not offended with *you* for
“ acting in obedience to your orders, if you
“ bring with you any fashions I may like,
“ I will be a customer.” He then said to me,
“ What a pity it is that Mrs. Baddeley should
“ stand so much in her own light, and be so
“ blind to her interest;” for she would be as
great in Paris as the Queen herself, and hoped
she would alter her opinion; that he had un-
limited orders, to give her every thing she
asked; that he was unwilling to go back with
such an answer, but that he was restricted to a
day, and must return.

When he was gone, she asked me what I
thought of it; “ indeed,” returned I, “ I
“ know not what to think, I am so surprized.”
“ The duce take me,” said she, “ if I would
“ live in France to be Queen of it; I hate the
“ French, and would rather be a menial ser-
“ vant in England, than the French King’s
“ mistress.

“ mistress. Let him go back, and tell his
 “ Royal Master what I said. But only think
 “ of it. When we saw him dine in public, I
 “ observed that he looked much at me, but
 “ little supposed he noticed me so much as to
 “ send after me, and now it is full a year
 “ since ! Well, I need not despair of friends
 “ I find, when I make them, go where
 “ I will !” She was not a little vain, how-
 ever, of this invitation, and did not omit to
 tell it to all her acquaintance.

We went to the opera, and drank tea in
 our own box, when the late Lord Harrington
 came and begged a seat in one corner, to im-
 part something to Mrs. Baddeley of impor-
 tance ; this was to say how much he admired
 her, and how wretched he was not to be no-
 ticed by her. Her reply was, that he certain-
 ly was a little out of his mind. He assured her
 he was very much so. “ Then,” returned
 she, “ it is dangerous sitting so near you.”—
 “ No,” said he, “ the nearer I sit to you, the
 “ sooner I shall be cured.” Come then,” said
 Mrs. Baddeley, “ sit forward, close by me, and
 “ then your lady will see you, and when you
 “ go home, will give you a trimming, for you
 “ certainly deserve it.” It was with difficulty
 she

she could get him away, and when he was gone, we had all the foreign ministers, one after the other, and many other noblemen.

When the opera was over, Mrs. Baddeley was handed to her carriage by the Duke of Manchester, and I by Lord Clanbrazil, who whispered to me, that he wished to see Mrs. Baddeley, to tell her something of her Gaby. In our way home, the coach ran foul of a broad-wheeled waggon with eight horses, and was overturned; but we received no hurt; only it occasioned a stoppage of carriages, and being presently known whose carriage it was that was upset, it was not a little flattering, to find a crowd of nobility on foot, surrounding us, and kindly enquiring how we were. We were handed into the first coach that came up, by some gentlemen who politely set us down at home. Our carriage was much damaged; and our knocker went till near two in the morning, with enquiries respecting us.

Next morning we got into the phaeton and set off for Henley; we stopped at Salthill, and saying to Mrs. Partridge, at the Wind-mill, we should be back there the Saturday following, went on to my house near Henley, where Mr. Gill

Gill met us. He was elegantly dressed, and it did not escape Mrs. Baddeley's notice. Poor man his joy was so great that he could neither eat nor drink.

After dinner we walked into Kingwood, about three-quarters of a mile distant, to see the Gypsies, of which there were upwards of a hundred differently employed; some cooking, others washing, others at dinner, &c. They wished to tell our fortunes, but we declined; however, we gave them ten shillings among us, and got their blessing.

Mr. Gill was very eager to know what steps Mrs. Baddeley had taken, respecting her divorce, and whether she had procured any advice; she told him every thing she had done, and the doubts Mr. Dunning had upon the occasion; "But," said she, "there is another bar, that was a divorce to take place immediately, would interrupt a marriage for the present." She was near three thousand pounds in debt, and till that was discharged, she would give her hand to no one; for the incumbrance of herself was quite sufficient, without adding to it that of her debts. He, with all the ardour of a lover, begged her not to think

think of her debts, for he would prefer a jail with her, rather than a palace without her. "This" continued he, "shall not retard the business a day. Had I it in my power, I would discharge them instantly; but that will never be, whilst my father lives. However, when your creditors know it will be one day in my power to pay them, I should suppose they would wait that day with patience." She thanked him, but said, by the time a divorce could take place, she should be able to pay them herself; he must therefore rest himself satisfied for the present. He seemed to acquiesce in all she said; but begged leave to extort from her a promise never to give her hand to any other person, but to marry him, as soon as she was at liberty. This she solemnly promised, and he was as happy as he could be.

We stayed till the Saturday, and then set off for London; and, on calling at Salt hill, we found Mr. Damer, whom Mrs. Partridge had acquainted of our designing to be there. With him we dined; but after dinner, Mrs. Baddeley being taken ill, with her old complaint, a sick head-ach, he politely offered her the use of his carriage; saying, he would ride in the phea-
ton.

ton. She told him the horses were rather ungovernable, and as no one could drive them so well as me, it would be better for him, and her to ride in the chaise, and Mrs. Steele might drive along side of it. This was settled, and thus we came to London. Mr. Damer so pleaded his cause with her in this tête-a-tête, that she noticed him afterwards more than she had done before.

On our return, we found letters from Lord Melbourne, and Lord Falmouth, with a card from Baron Diede, to dine with him as that day and one from Mr. Stanley, inviting himself to tea. The maid told us that among the numbers that had called, and left their names, was a Mr. Scot, a silk-mercant, for five hundred pounds, which Mrs. Baddeley owed him; and which he was very angry about, and said he should call no more. Mrs. Baddeley said, she owed no such sum for silks, nor did she recollect the name of Scot; and seemed a little uneasy. The girl replied, she was certain she was right; for that he talked with her a good while on the subject, and asked her, whether she did not think it wrong, that he should be obliged to come so often after his money. "Why," said Mrs. Baddeley, "did you ever see him before?"

"O yes,

“ O yes, ma’am,” returned the girl, “ I have
“ seen the man often here, he came the day
“ that Sally first came ; and if you remember
“ took up the cat, and said he would burn it.”
“ O Goodness,” said I, “ I now know who it
“ is ; it is no other than Damer, in one of his
“ funny moods.—Did he write his name on the
“ slate ?” “ Yes,” replied the girl, and fetched
it, and as soon as we saw it, we knew his hand-
writing. “ I am glad” said Mrs. Baddeley,
“ it is no worse, for I began to be frightened.”

We supped alone this evening, and Mrs.
Baddeley, though she was relieved from the
head-ach, was very low-spirited ; she cried and
hung round my neck, and begged me to swear
I would never part with her, if death did not
oblige me. As I had given her no cause for this
uneasiness, I wondered the more at it ; and told
her I had no design to leave her. “ If you
“ do,” said she, “ I shall be lost for ever, and
“ shall, like Jane Shore, come to your house
“ and beg my bread of you.” I intreated her
to tell me the occasion of this uneasiness ; for
that she distressed me exceedingly.—“ When
“ you was from me in the phaeton,” said she,
“ I thought my heart would have broke ; I
“ looked at you often, and thought I was with-
“ out

“out all I valued upon earth; and a thousand foolish thoughts came into my head; that some reasons might in a little time take you from me; and then I should be an out-cast and miserable.” I took this opportunity to reason with her, and assured her if she would be her own friend and never give me cause, I never would leave her, whilst either she or I lived; that I had suffered in my mind, a great deal on her account; but, that as I loved her as my sister, I should never think of living from her, if her misconduct did not force me; for let her situation be what it would, nothing should drive me from her, but her imprudence. She thanked me a thousand times, and said, it should be the study of her life to please me, and to make me happy.—This quieted her and I persuaded her to go to bed.

The next morning she was in better spirits; and an anecdote or two, told her by her hair-dresser, made her laugh exceedingly. Among others, he told us that Mrs. Barry, of Drury-lane Theatre, was very ill; but that he had seen her three days before beat her hair-dresser, kick him down stairs, and tumble him from the top to the bottom; and on being asked for what reason, replied, only for catching hold of her
car.

ear, in a hurry with the hot pinching irons, instead of her curl, and that the man avowed he'd dress her no more, for he was afraid of her. "Where did this happen?" said I. At the theatre, he replied, and as he was coming out of Mrs. Abington's room, he was an eye witness to it. But scandal is the life of the green-room, and this story, I have no doubt, was food to the dealers in it for a month. Before my hair was dressed, came old Lord Harrington, and as Mrs. Baddeley declared she would not see him, but in my company, I was forced to put on a morning cap, and go down with her. He told her, it was an age since he saw her at the opera, and was happy he was not disappointed in having it in his power to offer her any service she might stand in need of. She thanked him, and said at present she was not in need of any. He then proceeded to declare she was, in his opinion, the finest woman he ever beheld; wished his fortune would enable him to lay thousands at her feet; and if she would permit him to pay his respects to her, once a week, she might command his purse; and, as a proof of his intentions, if she would accept of those three hundred pounds (holding up bank-notes to the amount), it was much at her service.

"My

“ My Lord, returned she, “ I perfectly un-
 “ derstand you ; and the terms on which you
 “ offer your bounty, are such, that I can no
 “ way accept it, even if I wanted money,
 “ which in fact I do not ; and I must beg the
 “ favour you will never offend my ears again,
 “ with a repetition of the same kind.” He
 then began to explain away his words, by say-
 ing, he had advanced nothing that might give
 any lady offence. He only wished, by permis-
 sion, to call on her once a week ; it being his
 greatest delight to sit with an agreeable woman
 like her ; and hear her sing, and pass away a
 few hours in conversation ; that he meant no-
 thing indelicate ; that he was not a boy, nor like
 the gay world in dissipation ; that he was fond
 of pleasing society ; and was obliged to seek for
 that abroad, which he could not meet with at
 home ; that he was far from knowing what do-
 mestic happiness was ; and therefore, coveted
 the company of a female friend, where he
 found one to his liking : that his fortune was
 not a splendid one, but that nevertheless, he
 had it in his power to take care of any lady,
 who was not unwilling to repose a confidence
 in him ; and, as these were his real sentiments,
 he did not see how they could give offence, his
 wish being only to visit her, on the score of
 friendship ;

friendship; and that on such days, as might be agreeable to herself; without interfering with any of her engagements.

Mrs Baddeley replied, that admitting his visits were meant only in the light he was pleased to represent them, her connexions were such, that his frequent visits, might give cause of uneasiness, where she should be unhappy to do it. However, he wished her to turn it in her mind, and give him an answer some few days after. She promised this, and he put up his banknotes, saying, he would do himself the honour to wait on her again, in the course of a week, to know the result of her determinations. His chair was called, and he left us.

He was no sooner gone, than my servant brought in word, that a gentleman wanted to see Mrs. Baddeley. "Who he is," said the fellow, "I don't know, for he would not give me his name." "Go then, and tell him," said I, "that unless he sends in his name, he can see neither of us; nor even then, unless he is known to us." The servant delivered this message; and, on the person's saying, he was not known to the ladies
by

by name; nor could he tell his business but to Mrs. Baddeley; he told him, he could not see her; at this he grew warm, and threatened to cane my servant for his insolence. Words arose, and John got him out, and shut the door in his face:

The person went away, and soon after sent the following letter.

“Honoured Madam,

“I was sent by a gentleman of fortune, to tell you how much he loved you.—
 “I am his head servant; and did not deserve the impudence your man did shew me. I wait therefore for your speedy answer to this, that I may come and deliver my orders; and am, for my master,

Your humble servant,

“Peter Fowler.”

“Feathers Tavern,

“Bond-street.”

“To Mrs. Baddeley.”

To this letter, Mrs. Baddeley said, there was no other answer than to tell the man, who

who wrote it, that he was an impudent fellow. This was delivered, and we heard no more of him. In the interim, came Mr. William Fawkner; but Mrs. Baddeley not seeming so happy to see him as she used, he enquired the cause of it, and hoped he had not given offence: saying, her coolness made him exceedingly unhappy. He took hold of her hand, but she withdrew it. At this he exclaimed, “ Good God, my dear Mrs. Baddeley ! What have I done ? How wretched you make me ! ” She told him, she should always be happy to see him, as the rest of her friends, and would not have him think more of her than as an acquaintance; she had well considered the consequence of her own conduct, saw it was highly improper, and therefore determined, in future, to have no further intercourse with him, than as a friend; in which light she should ever consider him, and value him.

He endeavoured to expostulate; but she would not hear. He told her, let her determinations be what they would, she would ever be dear to his remembrance; but, that it would lay him under the necessity of discontinuing his visits, as he could never bear up under the mortification the sight of her would occasion.

for,

for, it would renew the recollection of his past happiness; and, that recollection would make him wretched.

He could only therefore, with heart-felt sorrow, at his dismissal, return her ten thousand thanks, for the indulgences she had bestowed upon him. In short, as he had not power to say more, she must pardon his leaving her. With this he bowed, and went out of the house in a minute.

"Well, now my dear Steele," said she, "you see I can keep my resolution. I did this, and will do more to convince you, how much I value you and your advice. Did not this come on you unexpectedly? Could you suppose I could do this to a man whom I own I loved; and to whom I was so attached, that I would have taken him for life? Many an hour have I been happy in his company, and the more so, as it was unknown to you. But that's now over, as shall more of my imprudence shortly be." She was happy at this, and told her, it was in her own power yet, to be one of the most comfortable women upon earth. "I believe

“so,” returned she, “and I am resolved I’ll try for it.”

I said, she might still have an engagement at Drury-lane. “No,” replied she, “I will never have any thing more to do with the stage, for it has been my destruction.” During this conversation, came Count Haflang; we enquired kindly how he did, and Mrs. Baddeley expressed much unhappiness at the accident, that so long confined him. He begged no apology might be made, saying, the fault was his own; he had suffered a good deal, but was now pretty well recovered, and the sight of her so enlivened him, that he felt not the least pain any where, but in his heart. Mrs. Baddeley told him, he could not possibly feel any there; for he must certainly long since have bestowed it on some worthy object. On the contrary, he assured her it was undisposed of, till he saw her; and, that he must finally confess, he was so impressed with her beauty, that he could have no rest. “You are then,” returned she, “just as I am, for I have but little rest myself.” “Is there then,” said he, “some sprightly rival in my way?” “May,” replied she, “but men, now, are the least of my thoughts, and, I intend to pass

“ up a paper at my door, to acquaint all my
 “ friends, that do me the honour to call on
 “ me, that a prohibition is laid in the house
 “ on the name of *Love*, or any thing bor-
 “ dering on it.” For she was not without
 the man of her heart, and to him alone all her
 favours were due.

The old gentleman, still went on, that it
 might be presumption in him, at his time of
 life, to think of so beautiful a creature; but,
 that he was not without his feelings. She en-
 deavoured to turn the conversation, by asking
 what news abroad? “ None,” said he, “ of
 “ consequence, but, that the men are all
 “ mad, like myself.” “ If that be the case,”
 she replied, “ I’ll see none of them; it is
 “ dangerous to be with them; and so, as I
 “ am going out, and must dress, I will wish
 “ you good morning.” With this she left
 him; and, as I pleaded the same excuse, he
 soon went away, saying, he should not give
 up his wishes, whatever might be his disap-
 pointments.

Count Hassang, was upwards of seventy
 years of age; and, to hear such an old fool
 talk of love, was surfeiting. But the men, I

find are all alike, young and old, and will pursue their inclinations, however ridiculous it may appear; and, to their illicit amours they will sacrifice the name of love, and talk of affection, when they have not the least spark of it.

Mrs Baddeley, I will admit, was not blind to the follies of many, that paid court to her; and if, at times, she gave way to imprudence, the good-natured reader will, I trust, make some little allowance, when he has been told of her youth, her beauty, and personal accomplishments; and the great admiration she always had; enough, as I have before observed, to make any woman vain, of ten times the understanding, especially in an age of dissipation, when reserves are too much laid aside. It is an easy thing, for a woman to sit down and censure the conduct of Mrs. Baddeley; but, I will venture to say, not one in ten, in her situation, could have withstood the temptations she met with.

I do not advance this as an excuse for her errors; but, I would have my female readers to consider the many attractions she withstood, and the many temptations she avoided; how much

much her vanity was swelled, and her ambition heightened, by the homage and adoration paid her; and then condemn her, if they please. She was made like other mortals, of human materials; and, if she fell a sacrifice to vanity, let it be kindly attributed to the frailty of her sex. Many were the applications to Mrs. Baddeley for her favours, even from men in second life, who made her offers that would have tended to the ruin of themselves and families, but she listened to none of them; and, was I to relate the whole, it would fill a dozen volumes, and answer no purpose, but to make families unhappy. I have not mentioned any, but those who are generally known, nor do I mean it; such will pass unobserved, and unnoticed, nor shall my pen disturb their peaceful moments. I will advert then to Lord Falmouth, who came to try the effect of gold, and see whether it had more influence than persuasion. Mrs. Baddeley admitted him, and a repetition of his former declarations took place, which she told him, as she had done before, were disagreeable to her. He then took out of his coat pocket a large purse, full of gold; said, it contained five hundred guineas, and was at her service, and more if she would accept it; that, he presented her that

trifle to purchase something for his sake; and which, to my great surprize, and the first time I ever saw her accept a favour, from a person to whom she had not bestowed one; I say, to my great surprize, she took up the purse, put it into her pocket, thanked him, and said, she should not fail to lay out the contents as he desired. His Lordship told her, she was welcome to it, and as much more, if she would do him the favour to accept it. "No, my Lord," returned she, "the present you have made me, "is more than I expected, nor would I have "taken it, but with an intent to purchase "something in memory of so good a friend." "You must not," said he, "call me by that "cool name, for I absolutely love you." She hoped he did, and wished all the world would, as she would never do any thing to incur their hatred. She was in high spirits, and he begged her to be a little serious; but she told him, it was one of her mirthful days, and her friends would be happy to find it, for she was going out to dinner. On this he took his leave, begging she would fix a day when he might have the honour of calling on her again. Mrs. Baddeley said, whenever it was agreeable to him. He then bowed and left her.

She

She was quite overjoyed with this five hundred guineas, and said, "This time I think I have acted right; for I am so tormented with these old gentlemen, that I am determined to take all they will give me, by way of recompense, but never meet their wishes otherwise than by thanking them. Here, take the purse, Steele, and pay away the contents to whom you please, or keep it in part of what I owe you." I told her, my account with her should be the last thought of, and that we would consider the best use to apply it to.

"To prevent being troubled with Lord Falmouth's visits in future," said Mrs. Baddeley, "I will give orders to be denied; nor will I see old Count Haslang, for I hate him monstrously; he always looks as if he had a stake run down his back." The servant had his orders; for, since dining out was an excuse, we meant to spend the day alone.

Lord Winchelsea and Mr. Storer called, and we were denied to both; but, in the evening, we saw a Mr. P. who tendered us his services, said, he had a quantity of French wines, very fine and good, which he had run, and could afford to sell at half the price we paid for them

at present. He was clever and sensible, and seemed not only the man of business, but the gentleman. This man was a surveyor as well as a merchant, and employed a relation of mine, who was under many obligations to him.

Mrs. Baddeley told him, she would be a customer to him, gave him an order, and told him to send in such as he could recommend; for, as some of the nobility did her the honour occasionally to dine with her, it might be a recommendation to him. I do not conceal this person's name from motives of delicacy, but from policy, as he will appear in a very different light hereafter; he was a man little known to the world, and as such, his name is of little consequence.

A man, whom we had employed to build a wash-house for us, having charged us forty-eight pounds, when he agreed to do the job for twenty pounds, we told Mr. P. of it.

He said, those kind of people generally imposed upon ladies; but, if we would give him the bill, and authorise him to settle it, we should have justice done us; "and as I do not want for money," continued he, "and have
118 some

“some at your command to pay this man, or
“twenty such, I will do it with pleasure.” We
thanked him, and he staid tea and supper.

Mrs. Baddeley, whose great fault was that of
being too communicative, made this man ac-
quainted with her situation as to debts, and he
very officiously told her, in a friendly way, that
he had some thousands in his banker’s hands,
and he would settle the whole, and she might
repay him in such sums as she could conveni-
ently spare; for he should be happy to be of ser-
vice to us.

Mrs. Baddeley then desired me to shew Mr.
P. the list of what she owed; I did and his
answer was, “I beg you will not think of
“paying one shilling of these debts yourself,
“but refer them to me, and I will settle them
“all.” She told him she was obliged to him;
and as a proof how much she wished to con-
vince him, that she would let him have the
money as fast as she could spare it, she begged
of me to give him the five hundred guineas in
the house. He declined taking it, but she in-
sisted so much on it, that he could not re-
fuse it.

He then took out his pocket-book, and gave her some cheques of Mr. Coutts, the banker, and bid her draw, when she wanted cash, and he would take care she should be supplied; and, the next day, he would set about settling her affairs, and he hoped to her satisfaction; as he thought he should be able to save her many pounds, and not lessen us in their opinion, but keep up our consequence.

I was not a little pleased with this, as tradesmen are apt to take advantages of women, be they ever so clever, or ever so much upon their guard.

This was ever my opinion, and I am still more confirmed in it, since I have read a work, put into my hands, which I had occasional recourse to, by way of relief, whilst I was writing these memoirs; and, in justice to the merits of that work, I will own, that had it been published years ago, and fallen into my hands, it would have saved me hundreds of pounds.

The reader, perhaps, will not be displeased with me, if I tell him the name of this book. It is called *Modern Times*; or, the *Adventures*

of Gabriel Outcast, and is a novel in three volumes, written in imitation of *Gil Blas*.

As the title announces, that it has been considerably improved, and enlarged, since it was first published, it may not be unnecessary to say, that what I read was it's third edition, and laughed through it, from one end to the other.

The author, whoever he is, must be a man of infinite humour and ingenuity, and have a thorough knowledge of life; as, under a well-told train of adventures, he sets before his readers the arts, deceptions, and villanies of the world, in all professions; and thus instructs, whilst he entertains; and a perusal of it will be useful to hundreds, who may never through life, see, or know, half they will learn in these volumes. But to return.

Putting a mark on those bills, which I wished should be first paid, I gave Mr. P. the list of her debts, and also the bills for repairing and improving Hammersmith house, which he said was a great imposition, and he would see us righted.

Mrs. Baddeley

Mrs. Baddeley and I, gave Mr. P. full power to act for us; and he, the next day, paid more than the five hundred guineas he received, for he brought receipts to the amount of six hundred and sixty pounds; and made the man, who charged forty-eights pounds, take thirty pounds, and brought us his receipt in full. This gave us great pleasure, as the man told me, he would not abate a single shilling of his demand.

Mr. P. was now much in our esteem; for he seemed highly to deserve it, and frequently sent us valuable little presents; and, once a day, called regularly to see what we wanted, and how he could serve us. All we drew on Mr. Conts for, was punctually paid, though we did not draw for much.

Mrs. Baddeley made him a confident in all her affairs; told him that she was obliged to Lord Melbourne for what she had, and enumerated what he had done for her, and what expectations she had from him, and how much she was in my debt. In short, as she kept no secret from him, he had reason to believe he should be repaid all he advanced, and being of a friendly turn, was as happy, in appearance,
in

in doing us this kindness, as we could be to receive it. We will now leave him, for the present; what I have said being necessary for the elucidation of what happened afterwards.

Going through Hyde-park, in our way to Hammersmith, we met with Mr. Stanley, who, saying he had lamed his horse, and sent him home by his servant, and wished we would give him a cast to Kensington, we took him into the coach; when he said a thousand civil things to Mrs. Baddeley, and fell on his knees to her, as men will do, to obtain what they want. She told him, that conduct might have it's effect with girls under twenty, but not with her; and begged him to rise, and not tease her in a manner so disagreeable to her; but, nothing could prevent him, and he continued his nonsense till we reached Kensington-gate, where we set him down.

On our arrival, at our house at Hammersmith, we were told, a man had called to speak with Mrs. Baddeley; that his name was Free-love, and his business information for her good; that, he lived at Chiswick, and if she wished to see him, he would wait on her on being sent for. This odd message excited our curiosity

curiosity, and we sent for him. When he came, he begged the door might be shut, as his business was not to be known by servants. The door being shut, he told Mrs. Baddeley, that he had a brother, who lived in Berkeley-street, Piccadilly, and, who kept a house there for the reception of the nobility; and, who had been after her many times, at the desire of a noble duke, who had offers to make her, which he presumed she would not refuse; "But, madam," said he, "as I am unacquainted with such business, I must leave it to you to act as you please. This is my information, and if you wish to have it, I can tell you the duke's name." "No," said Mrs. Baddeley, "I do not wish to hear it." "O, pray let us have his name," said he. "Who is the duke?" "No less a man," replied he, "than the Duke of Devonshire." "Now," said Mrs. Baddeley, "I am acquainted with the business; I wish you had kept your information to yourself, for I shall neither see your brother, nor his Grace." The man replied, he did this to serve her, and since he found it had offended her, he should be off; accordingly he tripped away without further ceremony, or even shutting the door after him.

Mrs. Baddeley

Mrs. Baddeley was so displeased, at the manner in which his Grace sent to her, and the person he employed in the business, that she was half-inclined to write to him and affront him; but, as I told her he was a foolish young man, and the best way would be to take no notice of it, she gave it up, with saying, she would only give him some of her contemptuous looks when next she met him in public.

Mrs. Baddeley was possessed of a handsome pair of pistols, these were at Hammersmith, and she proposed taking them home as a present to Mr. P. and asked her servant if they were charged, he told her not; and, in our way home, she having one, and I the other, began to trifle with each other; she said, she would shoot me; and I told her I would do the same, and we presented the pistols at each other, and should probably have done one another a mischief, if an accident had not prevented it.

Turning out of the great road, in order to pay my sister a visit, who lived in the King's Road, Chelsea; three ill-looking fellows came up, and two of them ordered the coachman to stop; I put out the pistol, and told one of the men, if he came near the coach, he was a dead man; and, putting my finger accidentally to
the

the trigger, the pistol went off, and frightened the horses so much, that they galloped away, and it was some time before the coachman could stop them. It saved us from being robbed, but frightened me and Mrs. Baddeley so much, that we were not ourselves for some time; and the more so, when we recollected, we had presented them at each other, and it was a providence they did not go off then; for, had I pulled the trigger then, I should certainly have killed her, and, had I done it, I never could have survived her. It has been a warning to me, and ever will, not to handle fire arms again.

We stopped at my sister's; she said Lord Grosvenor had called on her the day before, and kindly asked after us; said, he had been to the school where his children were at, and gave orders that Lady Grosvenor might not see them. This she said was an act of cruelty in him, as the children were her's; and, that having given these orders before, Lady Grosvenor, with all the affection of a parent, had dressed herself like a servant, and absolutely hired herself in that capacity, to the mistress of the school, in order to get a sight of them. She said, she did not know the truth of this, but,

that

that it was the common report of that neighbourhood.

Lord Grosvenor, the next morning, called on us, but did not see Mrs. Baddeley; he honestly confessed to me, that he thought her a fine woman, but did not see that beauty in her, wherein others thought so much of. His visits at our house were but few, but, they were friendly. It was from him we had always tickets for the masked balls, and Mrs. Baddeley never thought of applying any where else.

As Mr. P. will cut no small figure in this work, I must not omit to make my readers acquainted with his merits, as I go on. He called himself Mrs. Baddeley's agent; looked over the bills for repairing Hammer Smith house, being a surveyor by profession, curtailed them all, and settled them, as he did every other debt she owed; by paying some in full, others in part; and giving others his notes, payable at a distant time, for his paper would pass like bank-notes. By this kindness, I was much relieved from a heavy charge; and, though I was as keen as I could be, I found by Mr. P. that I was not adequate to the task I undertook; for he

he made them make considerable abatements in all their bills ; so that for a length of time after this, I never paid five pounds, but referred them all to him. He kept a regular book, and produced proper vouchers, for all he paid and received ; and, frequently offered to pay her bills, when he had not cash of her's : Thus was he a useful friend, and saved her many pounds ; I may say hundreds. I had now some little money by me, and his hinting one day, that he had a draft payable the next, and was not quite prepared for it, I told him, I had four hundred pounds of my own money, then in the house, and the loan of it was much at his service ; at least, he might take it as money of Mrs. Baddeley's, and apply it for her use, as he thought proper. He thanked me, took it, and gave me his receipt for the same.

At a masked ball, at Mrs. Cornelly's, in Soho-square, for which Lord Grosvenor sent us tickets ; and, whilst he was with us, unmasked, a well-dressed chambermaid, with a broom and dust-shovel, in true character, came up often, and swept round us ; she struck Lord Grosvenor so much, that he was desirous of finding out who she was ; having told him, in a tone of voice not her own, that he knew her, he followed

lowed her about, but could not learn who she was. When he returned to us, she came up again, begged pardon for being so troublesome; but, seeing so much dirt about us, her lady would discharge her, if she did not clear it away. "Well, young woman," said his Lordship, "shall I have a few minutes chat with you?"—"Yes, Sir," she replied, "if you please." Off went Lord Grosvenor again, with this mask, to find out, if possible, who she was; he staid the best part of an hour with her, and returned, saying, he could not for his life find her out; but, he was certain, she was some woman of fashion, for she knew a good deal of him. Mrs. Baddeley advised him to go again to her. Away he went, and a gentleman, whom we found afterwards to be Lord Pembroke, presently came and told us, that Lord Grosvenor was tête-à-tête with his own wife, and did not know it; for, that the chambermaid was no other than Lady Grosvenor. This was buzzed round the room, and his Lordship was pointed at by a number of his friends. Mr. Damer, said, it was a pity, and he would go and tell him; as the eye of every one was upon him. He went up to him, and whispered him in his ear, that he was talking to his Lady; his Lordship having sat down by her, and

and being then in warm conversation with her. Informed of this, he jumped up instantly, and came to us in great agitation, saying, he would rather have given a thousand guineas, than such a thing should have happened; but, that she disguised her voice so much, and played her part so well, that he had not the least conception who she was. We took the opportunity to beg he would be reconciled to her; for, that many ladies had been guilty of more imprudence than her, and, yet it had been overlooked. His Lordship swore he never would. Lady Grosvenor did not give up her pursuit of him; for she followed him all the night, and often said to me, "Pray persuade that gentleman to look on me; "I wish him to be friends with me;" but he did all in his power to avoid her; and, finding he could not, begged of us to go home sooner than we intended; for his Lordship was in our party.

Lady Grosvenor followed us out of the house, and said to me, in my ear, "I wish I was in your place;" I replied, I wished she was; then taking me by the hand, she said, "God bless you;" and continued with us, till we were all in the carriage. True, said I to myself, as soon as we parted, poor creature, I wish with all

all my heart she had been with us, and partook of some of his Lordship's smiles; and happy should I have been, had I been able to prevail in her favour; but his anger and resentment was such, that he would not hear a word we had to say.

A Captain Crawford, of the Guards, an intimate friend of Captain Fawcner, and a polite handsome young man, whom indeed we had seen before; came to pay Mrs. Baddeley a visit, having heard, I presume, of what had passed between her and Captain Fawcner. Though, when I say *handsome*, I do not mean to say that Mrs. Baddeley never bestowed her attention or favours voluntarily, but to handsome men.

The pleasure she took in the company of Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Hare, and Lord George Gordon, is a proof to the contrary; for to these gentlemen, she was particularly civil, and when they omitted to call upon her for some time, has taken pains to see them; by going to public places on purpose. Captain Crawford asked her when she had seen Captain Fawcner, but said no more respecting him, his business being to introduce himself to her favour; and he used all the language, and those fond arguments which

which men in love use to captivate their mistresses. She sat silent till he had done, and then, thus addressed him. “ I presume, Sir, you
“ have been instructed by your friend, how to
“ proceed with me ; for the language you have
“ adopted, is that of Captain Fawkner’s, and
“ calls for the same answer.” “ Far be it from
“ me, Madam,” replied he, “ to use any
“ man’s language but my own. I have not
“ lived till this time, to need instructions to
“ convey my real sentiments. The heart natu-
“ rally speaks for itself.—Till now I have been
“ contented in my situation ; but, since I have
“ beheld your lovely person, and your charms,
“ I have wished myself a monarch for your
“ sake.” “ And, I doubt not,” said Mrs. Bad-
deley, laughing, “ for your own.” He told
her it was no laughing matter, for his feelings
would not admit of trifling. “ Certainly not,”
said she, “ I do not mean to trifle with them,
“ but to tell you seriously what I think. I have
“ let you run on,” (for he had said a thousand
“ foolish things to her, before she interrupted him)
“ to see how far your folly would carry you.
“ Can you suppose, Sir, that I will attend to an
“ idle tale which you tell to every woman you
“ meet ? And do you think me fool enough to
“ give my company to every one who may
“ please

“ please to compliment me as you have done?
 “ If you think so, you think wrong. As Mr.
 “ Fawkner’s friend, I shall be glad to see you
 “ at any time; but, to talk to me in the man-
 “ ner you have now, I shall ever consider as
 “ impertinent. Talk not therefore of trifling;
 “ I give you my honour, you never shall be
 “ trifled with by me; for, I will always speak
 “ my mind to you, as I have at present.” He
 seemed much hurt, and asked her, if she took
 a pleasure in ridiculing her admirers? “ Yes,”
 she replied, “ when my admirers act with im-
 “ propriety, as you have done; for though I
 “ acknowledge my imprudence, in some re-
 “ spects; I have always conducted myself so,
 “ in the company of those with whom I am ac-
 “ quainted, as not to warrant such unbecom-
 “ ing behaviour from any gentleman. I am
 “ like many others of my sex, not without my
 “ attachment, and where my faith is pledged;
 “ and therefore I expect, after this candid de-
 “ claration, that you will never trouble me on
 “ this head again.” He begged her pardon,
 for any thing that might escape him, to give of-
 fence; yet, let her be as angry as she would,
 he must and would love her through life; but,
 if possible, he would obey her commands; and
 not offend again in the same way, though the
 task

task would be difficult. He hoped therefore, she would class him among her friends, and permit him occasionally to pay his respects to her. She replied, she should be happy to see him, as she did her other friends when they were pleased to honour her with their occasional visits.

When Captain Crawford left her, she told me, she was certain Mr. Fawcner had set him on, to see if he could prevail with her, to listen to entreaties of a similar nature with his own; so that he might report the reception he met with, which she supposed he was gone to do. "I begin now," added she, "to be sorry for what I said to, and promised Mr. Gill; for such is my disposition, that, like a child, I am fond of new faces, and soon tired of them. The young gentleman, I believe, loves me to adoration, but I will not be his wife notwithstanding; nor will I be the wife of any man; for I can never submit to the controul of a husband, or put it in his power to say I have been imprudent in life. I value and esteem Mr. Gill; but I am resolved not to marry him. I know, my dear Steele, you will call me whimsical and capricious; I own I am so, and would have married him, when

“when first I saw him, had I been at liberty :
 “but my mind is now totally altered, and I
 “shall think no more of it. You see what a
 “changeling I am.” “Yes,” returned I,
 “I see it well enough, and knew it would come
 “to this ; however, I am not sorry for it. It
 “may be a wise determination, and the better,
 “as it takes place without my advice.” “If,”
 replied she, “I could give my hand for life to
 “any man, I would to him ; for I love and es-
 “teem him more than any man on earth ; I
 “shall therefore break with him by degrees, as
 “I would not hurt him.”

Lord Melbourne came this evening, and
 whilst he was with us, came Sir Francis Moli-
 neux, Usher of the Black Rod, who sat an hour
 with me, and was sorry he found Mrs. Badde-
 ley engaged.

This gentleman had no sooner left us, than
 the house was disturbed, by a noise below, among
 the servants. One of the maids, having open-
 ed the two pair of stairs window, and threw out
 one of the cats, whom she found lying upon her
 cap, the footman, knowing how fond his mistress
 was of cats, quarrelled with her, and put her all
 along upon the kitchen fire. The girl was not

much hurt, except burning of her clothes, but she was frightened into such strong fits, that it required three to hold her; and I was obliged to send for the apothecary, to get her out of them. It was at last effected, but they returned, and continued with her near three hours. Had Mrs. Baddeley known it, she would have discharged the maid; but, as I thought the man was equally, if not more cruel, I advised them to be friends, and the quarrel was made up. His Lordship staid till one in the morning, and then went away.

When he was gone, Mrs Baddeley told me, she had such things to acquaint me with, as would surprise me: that his Lordship had said, he had laid out such large sums of money, upon his house and other things, that he found himself pinched; for though his fortune was large, his ready money was nearly exhausted; of course, he should not be able to advance her money, to discharge her debts for some little time; but, that he would take particular care, she should have plenty for her immediate occasions; and that shortly, he would not only pay all she owed, but would discharge her debts to me too.

much

I asked her why she had not told him of Mr. P; she replied, she had, and that his Lordship was well pleased with it; and said, it happened fortunately, as it would keep things to rights, till such time as he could do as he wished; and said, the next time he came, he would bring her some money. She said, his Lordship told her, that since he came of age, he had expended upwards of two hundred thousand pounds in meat cash.

I replied, "Then you must be frugal, and live within bounds, and all will be well; for, I suppose his Lordship will take care, in a little time, to disincumber you." She said, she had no doubt of it, and would follow my advice.

There was scarce a day passed, but something new occurred. This morning came three men to the door, that played on different instruments. One of them was a young man, about twenty years of age, who sung sweetly.

Mrs. Baddeley was so struck with his figure, his voice, and manner, that she ordered them into the house, and bade her servants give them something to eat; they were taken into the

back-parlour, and fed; and afterwards Mrs. Baddeley went to them, and they continued playing and singing three hours; and every song the young man sung, drew from her fresh applause.

When she meant to dismiss them, she asked me what she should give them; I told her three shillings would be enough, but if she thought not, she might give them five. She said, five shillings, in her opinion, would not satisfy them; but, as I had no more silver, she took it and gave it to the young man, who bowed gracefully, and said he was much obliged to her.

As they were going away, the young man stopped to let his comrades go on, and when they were gone, he returned into the room, begged Mrs. Baddeley's pardon for the liberty; he said, the men were already paid, and as he was sufficiently rewarded by the honour of singing to her, he begged leave to return the five shillings she kindly gave him. Mrs. Baddeley refused to take it back, and he then gave it to her servant. We looked at the young man with amazement, and did not know what to make of him; he seemed to have the manner of a gentleman.

man ; and, on leaving her, begged her permission to come again ; she took his address, and said he might depend on her sending for him, at some other time, but not on the same terms ; for, unless he would permit her to pay him, she would not think of it : he bowed and went.

Mrs. Baddeley was of opinion, he had been well educated, and being reduced, hired these men to go about with him ; and, that he gave John the money, not thinking himself sufficiently paid for the time he was detained. John, our servant, said he was no street-finger ; for, whilst he was at breakfast, he tied up his stockings, and he observed that he had fine silk garters, and white silk stockings, under his worsted ones ; and, he was sure it was some frolic. I asked him why he did not mention this to us before ; his answer was, he did not think of it. " Besides, madam," added John, " under his old waistcoat, he had a fine shirt, and 'twas as white as snow." These circumstances led us to send where he gave us the direction, in order to learn who he was ; but, we were disappointed, for no such person lived in that place, nor did they ever hear of such a

This confirmed John's suppositions, and we never heard any thing of him, till we went to a masked ball, at the Pantheon, some time after; where we found him in nearly the same dress he had on at our house, and with the same instruments, on which he played; and sung many of the same songs we heard before. We took all the pains we could to find him out, but was not able, nor did we ever.

No sooner were these men gone, on the day I mentioned, but we had a morning visit from the Duke of Manchester, whom Mrs. Baddeley received; he called with a trifling favour which she asked him for, and staid but a short time.

As the door was opened for the Duke of Manchester, Mr. John Hanger entered in without ceremony, and came into the parlour where we were sitting; he said, he just run in to ask Mrs. Baddeley how she did, and seated himself by her; and, on her making no answer, he enquired the reason. She looked angry at him, and said, she did not approve of such liberties, entering the house in the manner he did. "There was a time," replied he, "when I might do this without offence." "Yes," returned she, "and pretty return

"yo

"you made me." "My dear Baddeley,"
 cried he, "upbraid me no more with my mis-
 "conduct;—I cannot live, unless you love
 "me."—"Love you?" returned she, "I once
 "loved you, 'tis true, and to my sorrow; but
 "I never will be that fool again." "How
 "shall I make you amends," said he, "for
 "what is past?" "Will you do it," replied
 she, "if I tell you?" "I will," said he,
 "if it is in my power."—"Then, take no-
 "tice," retorted she, rising from her seat, with
 her heart full of resentment—yet feeling a little
 of her old affection, she paused, and said, "I
 "have a favour to beg of you, which, by
 "granting, you will confer on me a lasting
 "obligation." Be what it would, he assured
 her, he would grant it. "However hard then
 "my conditions may be deemed," returned
 she, "they are, that you will never come into
 "any house where I am, take notice of me
 "in public, or even write to me again; I am
 "now happily situated, and have resolved ne-
 "ver to receive more of your visits." "This
 "sentence," said Mr. Hanger, "my dear
 "Baddeley, is so severe, that I cannot comply
 "with it. I will give up my life first; and,
 "as to Lord Melbourne, d—n him, he had
 "better mind his wife at home, than put him-

“ self in the way of my happiness; and, I
“ am determined, one day or other, to make
“ him answer to me for it.”—Don’t talk so idly
“ young man,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “ you
“ know not who is the cause of it; therefore,
“ stifle your resentment, till you meet with the
“ right person.” “ I would to God,” said Mr.
“ Hanger, “ I knew who it was. Lord Mel-
“ bourne I know is a constant visitor at this
“ house.”—I could not hold my temper or
tongue any longer, and said, “ What is it to
“ you, Sir, who visits us? *Your* visits, I must
“ tell you again, are exceedingly disagreeable;
“ and, I must request you will come here no
“ more.” “ It signifies little, Madam,” said
he to me, “ what *you* say; for let Mrs. Badde-
“ ley be where she will; I must, and will see
“ her, as I have often said, even at the risk of
“ my life.” “ Pray, Sir,” said Mrs. Baddeley,
taking up the cause again, “ let me have no
“ rudeness to Mrs. Steele. She is the best
“ friend I have, and affronting her, is affront-
“ ing me. She has my interest too much at
“ heart to see me the dupe of any man. I
“ have had time for reflection, and your past
“ conduct makes me shudder. Have you not
“ often beat me in my bed, till my shoulders
“ and arms have been black for a month? And
“ did

“ did your cruelty end here ? No ; when I
 “ took the liberty to give you some advice,
 “ which you then stood much in need of ; did
 “ you not.—But I will not repeat it.—The
 “ more I think of it, the more I despise
 “ you ! ”—

This charge of her's I knew to be a fact ; he
 has often beat her in such a manner, that I have
 seen his cruel marks, and have wept over them
 —Many of her friends, now living, will testi-
 fy the same ; and, I would have horse-whipped
 him for it, if she had not prevented me. He
 heard her out with patience ; and, then told her,
 he acknowledged his ill behaviour, and was
 ready to atone for all his past faults, and there-
 fore, ought to be forgiven ; that she was still
 dear to him ; that, life without her, would be
 a burthen, and, that he should go distracted. I
 gave her a wink to go out of the room, which
 she did, saying, she must go and dress, being
 engaged to go out, “ So, good morning to
 “ you.”—She left him ; he tried to bring her
 back, with all the endearing words he was mas-
 ter of, but, to no purpose ; he then bit his
 nails, and walked about the room like one
 crazed : he would have talked, but, I leaving
 him with the same pretence, he thought proper

to leave the house ; saying, as he went he should be with us again the next day.

I went up to her, and found her in great agitation, crying out, she was miserable, and apprehensive, from his revengeful looks, that he would do her a mischief. She wished earnestly, that she had never seen him, for, that her health was not what it was before she swallowed the poison ; and, that the fear of him disturbed her daily. She gave all her servants orders never to admit him, saying, she would discharge the first who did ; and, they all promising to obey her directions, she grew more easy.

When Lord Melbourne came, which he did that evening, at eleven, saying, he had been at the play with his dear Betsy ; (for he has often declared he scarce knew which he loved best, his wife, or Mrs. Baddeley) I say, when his Lordship came, she told him, Mr. Hanger had been with her, and how she had treated him ; for, she thought it best to mention it herself, lest he should hear it from some other quarter, and be displeased. Lord Melbourne acknowledged himself much obliged to her for this information, which put him at his ease ; for, he assured her, Mr. Hanger had, one day at

Almack's,

Almack's, told Lord Stanley, now Earl of Derby, in his hearing, that Mrs. Baddeley was as handsome as an angel; that, he had been at romps with her all the morning, and he was as happy as a prince. And when Mrs. Baddeley told him the orders she had given, not to admit him again, he gave her twenty kisses, and blessed her sweet face. He brought her no money however, but said he would the next day.

She observed to me, when Lord Melbourne was gone, that Hanger had said this in his Lordship's hearing, to create uneasiness and words between him and her, and called him a villain for so doing; and, told me, she never should forget his wicked intentions.

Dr. Arne now came in to give her a lesson, and he was followed soon after by Mr. Damer, who was so pleased with Mrs. Baddeley's performances, that he thought proper to reward her master, by a handful of gold. Both he and Doctor Arne supped with us; and, the Doctor liking the wine, Mrs. Baddeley ordered the seat of his carriage to be filled with it, unknown to him. Mr. Damer entertained us with the conversation he had with our maid, when we were in the country, under the name of Scot, the mercer;

mercier; he told her he had been a hundred times after his money, and pretended to be d—n'd angry; the girl begged his pardon for disbelieving him, and said, that her mistress never suffered a person to call twice, if she knew it; that she had lived with her two years, and never heard such a thing of her before. She said, if he called when the ladies were at home he would have his money, (thumping her hand upon the table with violence) and it was as sure as the Bank of England; "For, thank God, we have no duns here." "In short," said he, "I had a long chat with the woman, and gave her a shilling at parting, as she promised to stand my friend, and get me my money as soon as you came to town."

We were no sooner alone, than our servant, John, came into the parlour, and requested we would give him a patient hearing, and not be angry with him. We bid him speak freely, and he began with saying, he was mightily in love with Mrs. Bridget, Madam's waiting-maid, meaning Mrs. Baddeley's, and he never could be happy, unless he could have our consent to marry her, for she was the woman of his heart, and he could not live without

out her. "And how do you propose," said Mrs. Baddeley, "to maintain her?" By his industry, he said, and her service.—"What then," returned she, "you mean to continue with me?" "If you will give us leave, that is our design; and she shall wait on you as she does at present. I hope, therefore, you will consent to our marriage."—"But I must first know," said Mrs. Baddeley, "whether she is disposed to have you." He replied, she was, and if she would permit him, he would send her into the parlour. She was accordingly sent for; and on being asked if she had any love for John, she answered in the affirmative. "Why, what a fly wench you you are;" said her mistress, "and do you wish to marry him?" She replied, "yes; and should not be happy unless she did."—"Well, then," said Mrs. Baddeley, "you shall not want my consent; and if Mrs. Steele will give you furniture for a room, I will do all the rest, and give you a wedding-dinner; so you may marry as soon as you please." She curtsied, and went away happy, to acquaint John with what we had said. The wedding was soon solemnized.

I gave

I gave them the complete furniture of one room ; and on the day of marriage, they and their fellow-servants had a good dinner, at our expence, uninterrupted ; with as much wine, rum and brandy as they could drink.

She lived with us till she was ready to lie in, and then she left us. But she always found a friend in Mrs. Baddeley, who was liberal to a fault ; for she was seldom well, and Mrs. Baddeley paid a great deal of money for physicians, apothecaries, and nurses, to attend her ; but, like most low-bred people, her husband, from growing ungrateful, grew impertinent, and we got rid of him too.

She now ordered the coach to go to her milliner's ; and, though I went with her, to prevent any extravagance taking place ; she found means to lay out thirty pounds for gauze and blonds ; and, passing by Mr. King's, the mercer, would go in to see what new French silks he had ; he produced many ; and on her saying she could not afford to buy any, he said he would make her a present of what she wished ; or, he would give her seven years credit ; for, Mrs. Baddeley was a favourite of his, and he no less so of Mrs. Baddeley. In short, between them,

them, she brought away two dresses, one at eighteen shillings a yard, and the other at a guinea.

Going home our horses became unruly, and we were obliged to alight; and as we walked through Coventry-street, were overtaken by Sir Cecil Bishop. When we came to the great china-shop there, she went in and purchased as much china as came to thirteen pounds nine shillings, which Sir Cecil, with great gallantry, insisted on paying for; and as our coach followed us, we got in, and Sir Cecil politely took his leave.—“ This,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “ is the consequence of going abroad; had I “ staid at home I should not have had this “ china.” “ True,” said I, “ but had you “ staid at home you would not have been se- “ venty pounds more in debt than you was “ yesterday.”

On our return home, we found Lord Harrington had called, and our man being with us, the maid opened the door; his Lordship gave her half a guinea, and begged she would not fail to tell her mistress that he would be there again in two hours; having made a little purchase, which he should beg her accept-
ance

ance of. Mrs. Baddeley determined, therefore, to see him, to take, as she did from Lord Falmouth, what he had to present her with; and meaning that this visit should be his last. He presently came, and said, a bauble had struck his fancy as he passed St. James's-street, which he begged she would do him the honour to accept, and wear in remembrance of him. This was a beautiful diamond hoop-ring, set in a peculiar manner that added to its brilliancy; he requested permission to put it on, and placed it on the fourth finger of her left hand, saying, he wished himself and her so circumstanced in life, that he could put it on in an honourable way; but as fate put a bar between them, he could only assure her, that he presented it with as much sincerity, and put it on her finger with more love and affection than he did Lady Harrington's on his wedding-day. She could not but thank him for his genteel mode of making her a present, which she much admired, but thought him no way justifiable in making such declarations, whilst so amiable a lady as he had was living. "My friends, my Lord," said she, "seem to have taken up a wrong opinion of me; I am not insensible of my indiscretions; and I blush to own them; but I am not conscious there is any thing in

" my

" my conduct that will justify attempts on
 " my fidelity. Though the law forbids me to
 " marry, I have a friend to whom I owe infi-
 " nite obligations, who indulges me in every
 " thing my heart can wish, and to whom a
 " breach of faith would be unpardonable. He,
 " like a real gentleman, does not deprive me
 " of the pleasure of seeing my friends; and
 " under this predicament, were I to see them
 " in any other light than as *friends*, it would
 " be the height of ingratitude. Whilst your
 " Lordship thinks proper to consider me in
 " that light, I shall be proud of the honour of
 " your company, whenever it may be agree-
 " able to you; but to admit of your visits in
 " any other character, will be doing an injury
 " to your Lordship, to myself, and to many."

Lord Harrington, with all the sensibility of a
 generous mind, commended her; said, he had
 attended to her with pleasure; that her senti-
 ments were noble, and did her great honour;
 and that he should value her for them; and he
 had only to lament, that he was not that
 happy man that was nearer to her person;
 for though his person and age gave him
 no right to claim the attention of so beau-
 tiful and amiable a woman as her, yet, as va-
 rious things occurred in life, that might give a
 turn

a turn to her sentiments and situation, he hoped, as she might ever command both him and his fortune, let that turn take place when it would, she would bestow a favourable thought upon him.

When his Lordship was gone, she admired his present, said she wanted such a ring, and asked me if I thought she acted right, saying, she was determined to act so by every married man that addressed her; and was unhappy at Lord Melbourne's being married, more on account of his Lady than herself; for whenever he was with her, it took off all the pleasure she would otherwise have in his company; "But," said she, "the misfortune is, I am so deep in the mire that I stick fast."

I then took the opportunity to try again, if I could not draw her into a more honest course of life; and even offered her, on conditions she would return to, and live by her profession, to give her a full discharge from any demands I had upon her; and would endeavour, if she disliked a public life, to set her up in some business, that might support her in credit. As to the stage, she said, it was so much her detestation, that she would sooner meet her death,

than

than engage on it again; and as to business, she was totally unfit for it. In short, she could not think of altering her situation, bad as it was till she could not help it; she now was happy in her circumstances, and would endeavour to continue so.

There was now to be a Ridotto at the Opera-house, and the ladies were to appear in fancied dresses, without masks; we, therefore, began to prepare for it; and she resolved to make up the silk she bought that day of Mr. King, for that purpose; and an elegant dress was made of it. It was a lilac-ground, with beautiful flowers, scattered down it. The sleeves were puckered gauze; worn with a veil, richly trimmed with point lace, which flowed in a manner that considerably added to its beauty.

The house was crowded with persons of the first rank, and the ladies spared no expence to vie with each other in splendor of appearance; but yet I must say, no dress pleased me so much as Mrs. Baddeley's, nor was any so much admired.

Lord

Lord and Lady Melbourne were there, arm in arm, and walked together the whole evening ; but his Lordship did not omit to give Mrs. Baddeley many pleasant looks ; and even Lady Melbourne bestowed a smile upon her. We staid till five in the morning, and were handed to our coach by Mr. Montagu, and Lord Clanbrazil.

On our return home Mrs. Baddeley found herself not well, and conceived, for the first time in her life, she was in the way of many a married woman, but wished it might be kept a secret till Lord Melbourne found it out himself ; but this never happened ; for owing to a fright in losing a favourite cat, which she had some reason to think was killed by a dog, she was taken ill and miscarried. But we contrived it so that no one knew it. It confined her to the house a fortnight.

During this time she took an opportunity, by means of a friend, to give Mr. Gill to understand, (which he was to break to him by degrees) that she had totally altered her mind about marrying ; that if she gave her hand to any one it should be to him ; yet, according

to her present way of thinking, she would dispose of it to no one.

During this illness Lord Melbourne was frequently with her, but never staid long; he told her, among other things, that his dear Betsey admired her dress at the Ridotto, and said many civil things of her, and he could have kissed her dear feet for it. She replied, that her Ladyship's attention to her was more than she deserved; but the fault was not hers, the blame rested with his Lordship.—“Yes,” returned he,

“Blame on, blame on, and be forgiven;

“And, by repentance, make a holiday in Heaven:

“No more of this.—Here Mrs. Steele, is some-
 “thing to pay the doctor.” I took it, and offered it to Mrs. Baddeley, who bad me put it in my pocket. When he was gone, we looked at the money, and found it to be two hundred pounds, I told her this would help; not much, she said, for it was time Mr. P. had some more money. Mr. P. came in the evening, and I gave him this money, and took his receipt. He said if I wanted it, I might keep it,
 in

in part of the four hundred pounds I lent him, but that it came in good time, for he had many calls upon him ; I declined it, therefore he put it in his pocket. Mrs. Baddeley sent for him up stairs, was very lavish in her compliments to him and thanks, and begged him to put her in a way how she might be of service to him, in return ; that she might show her gratitude otherwise than by words. He replied that the pleasure of being of use to her and me, was an ample recompense, and that he had no view in what he did but to serve us.

When he was gone, Mrs. Baddeley said, she was sure that Mr. P. was in love with me ; and, that all his services to her was on that score ; that she had observed him every time he came, and that his eyes were riveted on me, and bid me remark her words ; for I should soon know it ; and though I smiled at the assertion, yet, I determined never to see him more, but in the presence of a third person, that he might have no opportunity, if it was so, of declaring himself.

Nothing occurred, in the course of her illness, worth notice, (as the knocker was muffled, and she was denied to every one but

Lord

Lord Melbourne) except a circumstance, respecting Mr. Dibden, of Drury-lane Theatre; which, though it does him little credit, I shall relate; to shew the unthankfulness of the world, and what little encouragement there is to do any one a good office. He is now living; and I dare him to contradict it. He had been under obligations to Mrs. Baddeley before, but came now to request the loan of twenty pounds.

Having given Mr. P. all we had to spare, she found herself obliged to tell him, that she was not at that moment mistress of such a sum; or, she would lend it him with pleasure. He then said, he was undone, for he had an execution in his house; and, if he did not pay the money that day, all would be carried off and sold.

He asked her if she would accept a draft for him, at six weeks; saying, he should be in cash at that time, and would take it up himself. She said, she had never done such a thing; but, if it would serve him; on condition that he would keep his word, and pay it when due, she would so far oblige him; but, that he must not disappoint her, as she had so many debts of her own to pay, that she could

could not think of taking up that bill. He promised he would provide for it; drew the bill, and she accepted it.

He passed this draft away; it became due, without Mr. Dibden's taking any notice of it, or even calling upon, or sending to us upon the subject. Of course it was brought to our house for payment. I told the bringer, Mr. Griffiths, who kept the Two Brewers, in Brewer-street; that Mrs. Baddeley was out of town, and that I could say nothing to it, Mr. Dibden having only borrowed her acceptance, and promised to honour the draft himself. He asked when she would be in town; I said in fourteen days. He then replied, he would wait that fourteen days with pleasure, if I would indorse it, but not else; and, that in the course of that time, I might find Mr. Dibden and get it paid.

As Mrs. Baddeley had accepted the bill, I thought my name of little consequence, and accordingly indorsed it. About three hours afterwards, as I was going down the steps from my door, a well-dressed man accosted me; said, he had some business with me; and wished me to return into the house, and he would then acquaint

acquaint me with it. I objected to this, and begged he would tell me his business there; he replied, he had a writ against me, but did not wish any one to know it; and therefore, begged me to return within the house. This alarmed me, and we went in. He then told me, it was a trick that had been played me; and, that it was for the twenty pound draft I had that day indorsed. He said, his name was Steele, that he was a Sheriff's Officer, and lived in King-street, Westminster; and added, that he saw the villainy of the proceeding, and would shew me all the indulgence he could. "Name your time, Madam," said he, "bail it, or pay it, it is the same, and I will go immediately."

I thanked him, gave him a guinea for his civility, said, I would advise with some friend on the occasion, and begged him to call the next day. I applied to an attorney, who advised me to bail it, and stand trial; and, as I was a married woman, he would plead my coverture, and make them pay the costs for their villainy. "Send the officer to me Madam," said he, "and I will undertake for you." I sent for the officer, and he told me there were some disagreeable circumstances attending it,

which I was not apprized of. "There is a name," said he, "on the bill, and the person does not exist, and should you bail it, it will enrage Griffiths, and perhaps lead him to give Mr. Dibden trouble." I told him, Mr. Dibden was, in my opinion, a very respectable man, and above committing any improper action: he replied, he was of the same opinion, and advised, if I had any regard for him, to send for Griffiths, and pay him the money; in which case, the draft would be in my own possession, and I might do what I pleased with it. I told him, I had a regard for Mr. Dibden, and his character, and would sooner pay the money, than he should have any trouble. Griffiths was sent for, he produced the draft, seemed unwilling to part with it; but, I snatched it out of his hand, paid him the money and the costs, and bid him get out of my house.

He was very impudent, threatened to prosecute me, but on the officer's saying, as I paid the money, I had a right to the bill; he could not help himself. He swore however he would prosecute me, but the officer only laughed at him; said, he was well matched, and it was only trick for trick.

When

When they were gone, I wrote to Mr. Dibden, but could get no answer. I then went to Chelsea after him; but he was never to be seen. Chance however threw him in my way; about six weeks afterwards; and, on my asking him why he never called; he pleaded business, and a new piece coming out at the theatre, that engaged all his time. Telling him, that I had been arrested for his note, and that I wished he would give me the money, as I paid it out of my own pocket; he replied, he was out of cash; but, on my informing him, what his friend Griffiths had said, respecting a false indorsement, on the back of the bill, and that I should not have paid it, but for his sake, and to save him from any disagreeable consequences. He flew in a violent passion; swore at me; abused me in the grossest terms, and declared he would never pay me; that he was glad I was arrested; Mrs. Baddeley got her money easy enough; and, it was no great thing, if she had paid so small a sum for him.

I then lost all patience; told him he was an ungrateful fellow; that, had *distress* been his excuse, I should have forgiven it, pitied him,

him, and would have waited till it had suited him to repay me; but, to be so abused and served, for the pains I took to befriend him, was the most ungrateful return that I ever met with; and, that I would immediately sue him for the money. He turned upon his heels, said, I might be d—n'd, and left me; and, to this hour, I have never received a shilling of it.

To come back to the subject of these memoirs. On our return one day from an airing, we were told that a Mr. Pigot had called, and said, he wished to see Mrs. Baddeley on a matter of some moment, and would call again the next day. This was the Captain Pigot, whom we met with at Windsor; and conceiving he had some message to deliver from our friend there, when he came, he was admitted. But, his matter of moment, was only to tell Mrs. Baddeley, that he had no peace night or day, since he saw her; and, that he could not refrain from embracing the first opportunity of declaring how much he loved her; and, how unhappy he should be, if she would not admit of his visits.—She only laughed at his folly; said, she could not suppose him idle enough to conceive, that his visits would

be acceptable to her, in the light he wished them to be considered; and, made use of the same arguments she had frequently held out to others, in a similar predicament.

But, no reason could divert him from his purpose, unless she would promise to see him when he called. She, with a great deal of good sense, told him her situation made it imprudent in her to receive him; and, as her engagements, and amusements seldom left her five minutes to spare, she could not think of it. But, he was too importunate, to be put off by this, and she could not otherwise get rid of him, than by assuring him, she should be happy to see him occasionally, among the rest of her friends; but, if his visits were too frequent, he must not be displeased, if she was sometimes denied. He dwelt long on the painful life he should live; that, the world without her would be hateful to him, and so on; but, she would listen to none of it, and was forced to leave him abruptly, on a pretence of going out.

After he had left her, Mrs. Baddeley seemed to express a sorrow for the young man; as it hurt her to give pain to any one; but, at the

same time, said, it was a very disagreeable thing, to be always importuned on a subject she could not attend to.—“ You know, my
“ dear Steele,” said she, “ it is out of my
“ power to receive such visits as his, and
“ therefore I gave him a proper answer; for,
“ he had better feel his disappointment now,
“ than, after having received some encourage-
“ ment from me, to meet with it hereafter.
“ Indeed,” continued she, “ though it is plea-
“ sing to be admired and thought well of; it
“ is to the last degree irksome to be de-
“ prived of that rational conversation, which
“ makes the company of gentlemen so
“ agreeable, and to have one’s ears filled with
“ declarations of love, and a parcel of non-
“ sense, that I am not in a situation to listen to.
“ I declare to you, my dear friend, I often
“ wish I was a hermit, and lived in a cave
“ unnoticed by the world.”

Indeed, Mrs. Baddeley’s romantic turn, frequently led her to wish herself in some sequestered retreat, and she seldom, when in the country, passed a neat cottage, but she would remark, that it looked like a happy place; and say, she believed the inhabitants were far more at ease, than those that walked in a more exalted sphere of life.

They

They know no ambition; nor, have they a thought above their present situation. But, these reflections seldom continued; a few hours longer, and nothing was uppermost but dress and preparation, for the amusements of the metropolis, operas, plays, masquerades, Vauxhall, and Ranelagh. Our life was such a continued scene of bustle and dissipation, that I wonder how she looked so well.

Often, in summer time, have we returned from a place of amusement, at three in the morning; and, without going to rest, have changed our dress, and gone, off in our phaeton, ten or twelve miles to breakfast; and, have kept this up for five or six days together, without any sleep. In the morning, to an exhibition, or auction; this followed by an airing, into Hyde-park; after that, to dress, then to the play; from thence, before the entertainment was over, away to Ranelagh, return perhaps at two; and, after supper and a little chat, the horses ordered; and to Epsom, or some other place again to breakfast; and, thus would she run on for many days together, and never say she was tired.

Whenever

Whenever we have been travelling, let our journey be ever so long, she would travel night and day ; always with four horses, and as fast as the drivers could make them go ; for, she never had any fear of robbers, or of accidents.

In this way, she spent a great deal of money ; she was liberal to the drivers, gave them four shillings, where others gave them only two ; and, to all the servants on the road, was equally bountiful ; so, that they flew at her command, and she was worshiped wherever she went. The horses on the road, were always on a full gallop, and this she called *going like herself*.

I recollect, one day, Mrs. Baddeley making an appointment with two persons in trade, with whom she dealt very largely, to meet them at Stains-bridge at twelve, and dine with them.

The reader will excuse my not mentioning their names, as each of them has a family, and it might not only create uneasiness, but tend to injure them in the opinion of their creditors ; for, though no harm was meant in this meeting, yet the world is apt to misconstrue things, and I

am not at present disposed to give it an opportunity of so doing. But, they were disappointed in the pleasure they designed themselves. She wished to go to my house near Henley, the day before, and so cross the country to Stains-bridge, the next day, which was about twenty-one miles distant. We travelled in her phaeton ; and, though we left Henley at seven in the morning, we could not reach Stains-bridge by dinner ; for, as we took no servant with us, (being on an expedition, she was unwilling should be known, in the fashionable circle ;) we missed our way, and when we thought of being at Stains-bridge, we found ourselves at Hertford-bridge, in the Salisbury-road. The disappointment was mortifying ; but, as we found our horses weary, we had no alternative, but to hire a post-chaise and four, and leave our carriage to follow us.

When we reached Stains-bridge, it was dark, and our friends were just gone. A splendid dinner had been ordered for our entertainment ; and, the landlord told us, the gentlemen said, they were sure some mistake or accident had happened, or we should have been there at the time appointed. They came down in a post-chaise and four, and returned in one. We

staid at the Bush Inn all night ; and, in the morning, one of these persons, finding, on an enquiry in Grafton-street, that we had left town for Henley, the day before we proposed to meet ; concluded, we should be at Strains-bridge some part of the day before, and that he should hear of us there ; he, accordingly, was at the Bush Inn by eight o'clock. This friend was not a little pleased that he enjoyed, by accident, Mrs. Baddeley's company alone.

He ordered every thing the house afforded for breakfast, and the same for dinner ; for Mrs. Baddeley being under some obligations to him, could not refuse staying.

This man, like her fashionable admirers, poured out his whole soul before her ; and, if she would but have listened to him, would have given her a receipt for five hundred pounds, which she owed to him and his partners, without any regard to his family, property, or connexions.

Her refusing to accept this, or listen to his proposals, put him out of humour, and led him to say, though he was not a Lord, he was no despicable character ; and, he could assure her,

he

he had the confidence of the first Lady in this kingdom, and did not a little pride himself upon the occasion.

Mrs. Baddeley was piqued at this, and began to redden; as she always did when she was vexed; and I wished her to say something proper to him upon the subject.

She at last told him, she did not come there to take a dinner with him, but in a friendly manner, and could not suppose he would have had a thought of what he had been pleased to say; that his words, "Though he was not a Lord," conveyed a double meaning, the explanation of which she was at no loss to comprehend.

"I am sensible," added she, "that you are no Lord, and that I am no Lady; but, be what you will, Sir, I will never place my confidence in you, or give you an opportunity to boast of what the first Lady in the kingdom thinks proper to do with you. I have various reasons for my resolutions; but, as I mean not to offend you, shall keep them to myself: permit me, however, to say, that as I have it in my power to pay eve-

"ry

“ my just debt I owe, without discharging it in
 “ the way you intimate, you may reserve your
 “ offers for those unhappy women, who are not
 “ in so fortunate a situation. You have a
 “ wife and children, reserve your benevolence
 “ for them, and leave me and my follies to my-
 “ self. I hold myself obliged to you for this
 “ invitation, and had you acted as a friend
 “ would have done, should have spent my time
 “ agreeably in your company ; as it is, I blame
 “ myself for accepting it ; and, had I staid at
 “ home, I should have given no offence, nor
 “ received any insult.”——

“ Mrs. Baddeley,” returned he, “ if I
 “ have said a word that can be deemed an in-
 “ sult, I beg your pardon, for I meant no
 “ such thing. I too well know the favour you
 “ have done me, by coming to this house ;
 “ and, beg all that is past, may be buried in
 “ oblivion ; nor, shall I be happy, till you tell
 “ me you have forgot it.”

She replied, it was not in her disposition to
 bear malice ; and, as he had atoned for the af-
 front, by his apology, she would think no more
 of it.

Our horses were then ordered, and we paid our bill; he offered to do it, but Mrs. Baddeley would not suffer it. When our horses were ready, we took our leave and left him.

Mrs. Baddeley was more angry with herself for this excursion, than ever I saw her before. The trouble we had to keep our appointment, and the insult offered, so vexed her, that she could not forgive herself.

“How do I despise myself,” said she, “for my folly! After my refusing his receipt, to be reflected on in the spiteful manner he did!— But, I deserve it for accepting his invitation. From persons of fashion, except some few of them, one never hears an unpolite expression, nor any thing that can offend the most rigid chastity. Their elegance, their manner, their deportment is captivating; but, these upstart shop-keepers are all rudeness and vulgarity; I hate them every where, but behind their counters.”

Among the rest of those dissipated married men, who courted the favour of Mrs. Baddeley, at the expence of their domestic happiness; there was one, tho’ less in rank than many of her

her admirers, was not less conspicuous in life. This gentleman's name, I must also keep secret, out of regard to his wife, now living, who had a particular friendship for Mrs. Baddeley; and who, notwithstanding the indiscretion of her husband, was known to live happy with him, either not seeing, or wishing not to see his failings.

Often have I heard her say, how happy she was in her husband, who was no way given to any attachment foreign to that he had sworn at the altar; and, declaring at the same time, that if he was, she would not live another hour with him.

This gentleman was a merchant in the city, well known on the Royal Exchange, and was rich. Though accounted a miser, he was lavish in his bounty to Mrs. Baddeley, whom he first saw at Ranelagh, and, where an acquaintance first took place, between her and this merchant's wife; and, which she was desirous of cultivating, in hopes of introducing herself into the society of some ladies.

The merchant came the next day, to ask how she did; said, he had not acquainted his wife with

with his coming, as it would have been a mortification to her not to have come with him; and noticing some china jars in one of the rooms, said he had a couple, that he thought would match them; and, if she would do him the favour to accept them, he would send them to her.

She did not see his view in this; but, they were given as an introduction to her favour. She accepted the jars, and very large and valuable ones they were.

Lord Melbourne came in soon after they were brought, and being made acquainted with their history, said, it was kind in the merchant, and advised her to keep up his acquaintance, as it would be a respectable family to pass an occasional evening with.

Lord Melbourne was scarcely gone, but a card was brought from the merchant's Lady, inviting herself to tea that evening. She came in her own carriage, with servants in rich liveries; and, as we sent for Dr. Arne, and Mrs. Baddeley sung; she was, as she was pleased to say, enchantingly entertained.

Her

Her husband came at nine o'clock to conduct her home ; was more reserved than in the morning, and did not drop a word of the jars.

The next morning he came again, to know if she had received them, and if they had met her approbation. She thanked him, but was sorry she had deprived his Lady of them. " Oh," said he, " she knew nothing of them, " and of course will not miss them."

This opened our eyes a little ; and, when he told us, how happy he was in this accidental acquaintance, and how much he felt himself attached to Mrs. Baddeley ; for as all the world adored her, it was no wonder he should do so too : in short, when he confessed he loved her, and was not ashamed to own it, Mrs. Baddeley's prudence took the alarm ; " Oh, fie, " Sir !" said she, " this declaration to me is a " misfortune ; for, out of respect to your Lady, " it will be out of my power to see you, even " on the terms I was proud to receive you " before."——

" Madam," returned he, " I love my wife " no less for my affection to you."

" That's

“That’s not possible,” returned Mrs. Baddeley, “nor will I hear of such professions again; for, they are not only disagreeable to me, but they hurt me.”

“Say not so, my dear Mrs. Baddeley,” said he, “for I must, and will love you; and, here make you a tender of any thing in my power to add to your happiness. I have a fortune, which is no despicable one, and any part of it you may command.”

“Yes, Sir,” returned she, “but you have a wife, and five children to partake of it.— In short, Sir, I tremble at your disposition, and am sorry you are acting to the injury of an amiable family, and seeking to disturb both your wife’s peace, and mine.”

“No, my dear madam,” returned he, “believe me, I have no such thought; but, in fact, I am not sufficiently master of myself to withstand your attractions, and I feel no remorse in telling you so; and, as a token of my esteem, I have brought with me a small present, which I shall beg you to accept of, on condition you promise to admit me, when opportunity suits;” and, taking out a hand-
ful

ful of bank-notes, he said, " here Madam, " are a thousand pounds at your service, and as " much more when you please to have it, on " the terms I have mentioned."

Mrs. Baddeley told him, that money was no object to her, nor would it tempt her contrary to her natural inclinations; therefore, begged him to put his notes into his book again, and never offend her more, by any further declarations of his folly; for, that she loved his wife, for her respectful attention to her, and if his whole fortune was laid down, she would not injure her in his affection, or his pocket; and, as this was her serious declaration, she hoped, as a gentleman, he would cease from proposing terms so dishonourable to his Lady, and so painful to herself; that, she wished for a continuance of his friendship, but must decline it, unwilling as she was, if she was any more talked to on this subject.

" All your preaching," said he, " my dear " Mrs. Baddeley, is to little purpose. I feel " myself so wretched out of your company, " and so happy in it, that I must find my way " to you, in spite of every obstacle, and if you

" refuse

“ refuse to see me, it will make me miserable.”

She replied, she ever had a wish to make all her friends happy, except, when they required of her, what both prudence and justice forbade; “ I thank my God,” exclaimed she, “ among all the sins I have to answer for, I never betrayed a confidence, nor had connexions with the husband of any female friend; nor, shall any thing on earth tempt me to it.”

He expostulated with her a great deal, made large offers, and would have given her any sum of money she would name; and, went so far as to tender her fifteen hundred pounds.

This, to do Mrs. Baddeley justice, had no weight with her, for money was not her idol; so she had enough for her use, she never coveted more, and was hurt, when it was mentioned, even by her best friends; for, she had a wish, at all times, to have the man of her heart under such obligations to her, and not be under such to him. But here the case was different. Though various attempts were made by this merchant

to seduce her to compliance, she opposed them all, but never betrayed them to his wife, with whom she was on the most intimate footing; and, the gentleman, though he met with a repulse so repugnant to his wishes, could not but confess, he admired her more for her disposition than her beauty; acknowledged that her sentiments were noble and generous, and declared, that through life, he should revere, honour, and love her.

Here the matter ended. No more was ever mentioned on the subject on either side. Mrs. Baddeley preserved his friendship, and that of his wife's, till the day I parted with her, and probably to the end of her life.

Thus would men often, to gratify a momentary pleasure, sacrifice a wife, a family, and fortune; and, thus would a few hours serious reasoning, bring such a man back to a proper way of thinking.

Would the female sex take a lesson from this example of Mrs. Baddeley, and check their seducers in that riot of their passions, when reason is overcome; and lay before them, as she did

did, the rashness and extravagance of their pursuit, and the fatal consequences that await it; how greatly would they merit the commendations of the virtuous; how high would they stand in the esteem of the world; and, how exalted in their own reflections! In saving themselves, they would often rescue a wretched family from destruction; and children, perhaps unborn, would be bound to bless their memory.

And yet, when Mrs. Baddeley refused this money, she was very much in want of it; for, Lord Melbourne, at this time kept his purses so close, that she was often obliged to write to him for small sums; as the following letter will shew.

“ My Dear Love,

“ I am exceedingly distressed for twenty pounds, and if I have it not to day, it will really be of bad consequences.—I think I am fully as deserving as *some folks* you are so attentive to. I dare say you know who I mean.—And I am sure, I have no right to question you, but, am sorry to think, you

"stand in need to be constantly put in mind of
"your old friends."

"God bless you !

"I am,

"Most invariably your's,

"Sophia Baddeley."

"To the Right Honourable

„ Lord Melbourne."

Being induced one evening, to go to a puppet-show, called the *Fantocini*, we met with the Duke of Anteaſter, who ſat down by Mrs. Baddeley, and ſaid many civil things to her; but ſtared at her ſo much, during the whole exhibition; that ſhe grew uneaſy, fearing it would be noticed, and get into the news-papers; than which ſhe dreaded nothing more.

When we left the place, ſhe remarked to me, that ſhe was ſure, ſhe ſhould ſee the Duke, or hear ſomething from him, before it was long; for he ſtared ſo much at her, that ſhe was almoſt

out

out of countenance. Her words soon came to pass; for, before ten the next morning, his Grace came to Grafton-street, muffled up in a great coat, so as not to be known. Being desired to send up his name, he said, it was of no consequence, that he was with us last night, at the *Fantoini*, and if that was mentioned, Mrs. Baddeley would know who it was. He was admitted, and we went into the parlour to him. The Duke addressed himself to Mrs. Baddeley; hoped she was well, which he could not say was the case with him; as he had been much disturbed all night, wishing for the morning, that he might have an opportunity, of waiting on her, in order to say, that he never yet saw her at any public place, but she made him happy for the time; but, that this pleasure always ended in pain. "For," said his Grace, "you are such a wonder of nature, that no man can gaze on you unwounded.—You are in this respect like the Basilisk, whose eyes kill those whom they fix on." Mrs. Baddeley replied, "Your Grace has said sufficient to raise my vanity; but, conscious of my own imperfections, I shall set it down to flattery." "No," returned the Duke, "set it down as it is; to sincerity.—You are absolutely one of the wonders of the age." She admitted this, "but

“ but that it was for her imprudence.” “ Not
“ so, on my honour,” returned he, “ I mean
“ for your personal attractions; and, how
“ happy must the man be, possessed of such a
“ woman !” Mrs. Baddeley replied, “ As your
“ Grace, has been pleased to pay me such a
“ compliment; permit me in return to say,
“ how happy must the Duchess of Ancaſter be,
“ in ſuch a husband as your Grace; provided,
“ you would think of no other woman !” “ I
“ do not,” returned the Duke, “ except it be
“ of you, and, it is not in my power to avoid
“ it. My declarations have been frequent to
“ you on this head; but, as you never notice
“ ed them, I muſt own, I grew weary in the
“ purſuit; but, the accidental interview of laſt
“ night, has renewed all my former wiſhes;
“ and, I could no longer reſiſt the inclination
“ of telling you ſo; and could I have the ſatis-
“ faction to find you meet my wiſhes, you
“ ſhould be as happy as my fortune and my at-
“ tention could make you.” Mrs. Baddeley
heard his Grace out patiently, and, when he
paused, ſhe made him this reply. “ When I
“ conſider your Grace’s rank in life, I hold my-
“ ſelf in duty bound, to thank you for the ho-
“ nour of your notice; but, when I reflect on
“ the nature of that notice, that condeſcenſion
“ which

" which brought your Grace here, and the im-
 " propriety of the visit ; my heart shudders at
 " the consequence. I own myself to be a
 " weak, foolish woman, given up to the plea-
 " sures of the world, and, I confess, that to
 " support that disposition, and my inclinations,
 " I have done things, which I ought not to
 " have done ; but I trust, I have not gone such
 " lengths in wickedness, as to disturb the
 " peace of families. In my present situation,
 " I want for nothing, but, the sole affection of
 " the man, I am under obligations to. This
 " indeed, I am not entitled to ; and, if I have
 " erred with him, it shall be the last fault of
 " the kind I will commit. The uneasiness I
 " have felt, on that account, has been suffici-
 " ent cause for reflection ; and, has made me
 " determine, that I never will listen to the pro-
 " posals of any married man again. Your
 " Grace, will, I trust, therefore pardon me
 " for saying, I must and will decline hear-
 " ing any thing that may tend to your disho-
 " nour, as well as my own. I have as high a
 " respect for your Grace, as any one can have ;
 " and, should be unhappy to offend you ; nay,
 " was your Grace to lay any commands on me,
 " in an honourable way, I would risk my life
 " to obey them ; but, in the present state of
 " things,

“ things, I must decline them, and hope I shall
“ not displease by so doing.” “ Indeed, Mrs.
“ Baddeley,” returned the Duke, “ you do
“ not displease me; I have listened to you with
“ real pleasure, and think myself highly in-
“ debted to you; little did I expect to be so po-
“ litely admonished, as you have done it; and
“ be assured, as far as I can follow your advice,
“ I will strictly adhere to it; and, in return,
“ you will, at all times, find me happy to
“ serve you, or oblige you. Should you ever
“ stand in need of a friend, (as we all some-
“ time or other do,) be assured you will find
“ one in me, and I hope you will not omit ap-
“ plying to me, on every little occurrence,
“ where I can be of service. I find you full of
“ sensibility, and noble sentiment, beyond the
“ power of temptation, and free from avarice;
“ as such, you deserve my applause, and that of
“ every thinking person; and, depend on it,
“ as a man of honour, I will never distress you,
“ by a repetition of this business; but, adore
“ you in silence and contemplation.”

When his Grace left us, Mrs. Baddeley, as usual, asked me, how I approved of her conduct, and whether I did not think she acted with

with propriety; I told her I did, and that it had a very proper effect upon the Duke.

She then asked me, whether she appeared graceful in the delivery of her sentiments; for she saw him watch every motion of hers.

"That," replied I, "I did not attend to;

but your expressions were such as became you." "Well then," said she, "Steely,

you see I can now withstand temptations;"

"Yes," returned I, "and had you done so,

from the commencement of our acquaint-

ance; how happy a woman would you have

been; and how comfortably should you and

I have sat down and enjoyed ourselves!"—

"What's past," said Mrs. Baddeley, "must

be forgot; you perceive I mend daily. I

now see into the folly of mankind, and can-

not but observe, how much more they re-

spect the woman who checks their inclina-

tions, and puts a negative to what they soli-

cit; than she who falls in with their wishes,

and gratifies them by compliance. I will

endeavour, therefore, to secure their friend-

ship by my prudence, and act with the re-

serve you with me."

Scarce had she uttered these words, before Lord Melbourne came in, and said, he was come to stay with her a few hours. He told her, he was going to Bath, at least, he supposed he should; for, his dear Betsy had talked of it, and if he went, he should be gone three weeks. "If you do," said Mrs. Baddeley, "I will, in your absence, make an excursion into the country." With this he seemed pleased.——Whilst his Lordship was with her above, Mr. P. came to tell me, that having agreed for the purchase of an estate, he was in want of money, and asked me, if I could help him to any; on my saying, I could not at present, he turned it off with, he would endeavour to shift without my assistance. He then told me, how much trouble he had taken in Mrs. Baddeley's affairs; what sums he had paid for her besides the draft he had accepted on her account, and that he was considerably in advance, all which, he was pleased to say, was to oblige me; for, that Mrs. Baddeley was not any thing to him, nor would he accept any favour from her in return; his view being to serve me, as he was convinced her affairs must have a great deal embarrassed me; that he advanced the money, upon my credit, knowing that it was safe in my hands, and that

that he should look to me, and me only, when it suited for a reimbursement. All this I looked over; as it served her, I was satisfied, be it on whose account it might. He then enquired whether Lord Melbourne had been more liberal to her lately; I told him not; but that his Lordship promised to discharge the whole of her debts, and had been informed of his kindness to her; and begged, if he was in want of the money, he would say so, and I would ask Lord Melbourne for it. He replied, "By no means, "I will wait his convenience."

He then told me, he had that day paid one hundred and seventy pounds for Mrs. Baddeley; and also paid my landlord one hundred pounds, for half a year's rent, on my account, and placed it against the four hundred pounds I had lent him, and gave me the receipt taken in my name.

Mr. P. went away soon after this, and Lord Melbourne came down to me, and as he went out, said he had not forgot me; that I should have money from him soon, and begged me to go up to Mrs. Baddeley, who was ill, with her old complaint, a head-ach.

I went up to her and found her head-ach was a pretence to quiet Lord Melbourne, who from being in high spirits, was as noisy as he could be.

On telling her the conversation that passed, between me and Mr. P. and saying, he had paid one hundred pounds for rent, which he charged to my separate account; she said, Lord Melbourne might be ashamed of himself, for not keeping his word with me, (alluding to his promise of paying the rent of Grafton-street house) but that should he not do it, she would, some time or other. I told her, that unless his Lordship did *she* never should, and turned the subject.

As his Lordship meant to be absent from town three weeks, Mrs. Baddeley seemed resolved on an excursion. Many places were thought of; but at last it was determined between us, to go to Margate. The next day, however, we went to Ranelagh, where Colonel Luttrell, now Lord Carhampton, took some pains to introduce himself to Mrs. Baddeley's notice.

Those who are honoured with the acquaintance of this Noblemen, must allow him to be a
man

man of refined sentiments, highly polished, and a complete Gentleman. Mrs. Baddeley was much taken with his address and engaging manners, and he drank tea with us.

In the course of conversation he told us, he should set off in a few days for Lutterell's town, near Dublin, the place of his residence, where Lord Townshend then was; and how happy he should think himself if Mrs. Baddeley would take a trip to see him; that he would shew her Ireland all over, if she wished to see it, and assured her, his situation was so delightful, that it would give her great pleasure.

He continued in our company the whole evening, and seemed not a little pleased, that he was enviously noticed by his friends. When we thought proper to go home, he politely attended us to our carriage, hoped Mrs. Baddeley would accept his invitation, and said, he would call on her the next day.

Mrs. Baddeley was delighted with this new acquaintance, thought the Colonel a very sensible well-bred man; but what took with her most, was, that he did not, like the rest of her noble friends, made her sick with a heap

of nonsense about love, beauty, attractions, and the like ; but his conversation was manly, sensible, and chearful, and she hoped she should see him the next day. She said she should be delighted to see Ireland ; and as soon as she could arrange her affairs with Mr. P. and Lord Melbourne gave her money to pay him, she would absolutely take a trip there ; for she could go there and back in a month, allowing herself three weeks in the place. I said a great deal in opposition to this scheme, and told her that the impropriety ought to forbid it. She replied, the Colonel was a gentleman of too much honour and sensibility to urge her to any thing against her inclinations. But the world, I told her, would condemn her, though she might not deserve it. She said, if she was to study to please the world, she should have enough to do. I then urged her to study her own interest, and asked her whether she thought Lord Melbourne would approve of it. She did not mean, she said, to tell him any thing about it ; she should say, she was going to some other place ; that she would change her name, and hide herself from all who knew her. In short, she was determined to go there, before a month was over her head.

Next

Next morning, Colonel Lutterell came, and went with us to see a relation of mine at Chelsea, where we staid dinner; and, in the course of the day Lutterell's-town was again mentioned, when Mrs. Baddeley said, "I intend to see that sweet place shortly;" and the lady we were with, saying, she should like to see it also, the Colonel gave her a friendly invitation to come over with Mrs. Baddeley; for she was a chearful woman, and pleased the Colonel much. She said her husband was going to Portsmouth for two months, and as she might go in his absence, begged not a word of it might be dropped to him, he being out of the room when the matter was talked of.

This determined Mrs. Baddeley at once, and the Colonel pressing them to promise him, they assured him he should see them there before the expiration of a month. The Colonel then entertained them with the amusements and delights of the place, romantic country of Wales, through which they would travel; the charming mountains they would have to pass over; the harps they would hear at every door, in short, he gave them so pleasing an account of what they would see, hear, and meet with, that they were both in raptures.

We spent the evening with our friends, and being asked to breakfast with them, the next morning, and the Colonel accepting the invitation, we called on him in our way there, and took him in our carriage.

We breakfasted in a tent upon a lawn, and our friends having provided a band, who played some soft music, we fancied ourselves in Elysium. When we took our leave, the invitation to Ireland was renewed, and as cordially accepted. The Colonel would fain have had me go with them, but I refused; as I thought it would be necessary to be in the way, to give answers to any enquiries that might be made. Mrs. Baddeley pressed me to accompany her, saying, she should not be happy without me; but as I promised to come and fetch her back, she was pretty easy, and suffered me to stay.

The Colonel was soon let into the whole of Mrs. Baddeley's situation, saw the propriety of my staying in London to keep Mr. P. easy; he said, he was sorry he was so circumstanced, that he could not pay her debts himself, (and as he was a man without deception, she believed him) but that her absence might spur
Lord

Lord Melbourne on to do it; and hoped, that when all was quiet, I would come over to them; and it was settled, that no one should know where she went, not even our own servants, except her man and maid, whom she would take with her, and my daughter, a child about nine years of age; for she would not go without her, being part, she was pleased to say, of myself.

The next day we all dined with Colonel Lutterell, at his house in Carzon-Street, Mayfair, and went to the play in the evening; and he seemed proud of being in Mrs. Baddeley's company, and to be there noticed by all his acquaintance.

The journey was now settled, and the mode of travelling fixed on; but, where was the money to defray the expenses? This I proposed to lend Mrs. Baddeley, and said, I would let her have two hundred pounds. Finding now no obstacle, she was quite wild with pleasure, went to her fellow-traveller, and settled the matter with her, who was equally as eager as herself. We all dined with the Colonel, and the next morning, before his departure,

ture, he breakfasted with us, and took his leave.

This friend of mine continued with us four days, and was joined by the family from Windsor, where we had been well entertained.— During the time they staid, we took every means of shewing them what was worth seeing in London; and, on their return, they had our horses and carriage as far as Hounslow.

Mrs. Baddeley began now to prepare for her journey. She ordered a new riding habit, white, with a pale-blue silk waistcoat, trimmed with silver lace, spangles, and silver frogs, as was then the fashion; with as elegant a hat as could be made. She had a variety of new clothes made up for the occasion, and was ready in a week; but Lord Melbourne, in all this time, did not give her a guinea.

She now waited impatiently for his going to Bath. That journey was, however, put off; but, as good luck would have it, he came and told her, that he was going out of town for fourteen days; and on his return, would make her happy.

It was, in consequence of this, planned, that she should go as soon as he went, and, on his return, he was to be told, that she was with a relation of mine near Henley.

Before she set off, I gave her my advice ; told her, she was going to the house of a gay man, an admirer of the women ; and I feared he would expect, what she, with prudence, should refuse. She bid me not be uneasy, that he had never yet said, or offered any thing that could offend the chastest ear ; and that she had that confidence in his integrity, that she could trust herself with him in any place. “ In short,” said she, “ let him make what advances he will, I now see the way to be respected is to be reserved ; and I am determined to secure his esteem by such conduct.”

We began to talk of her going to my house at Henley, as a blind to our servants, and they all believed it was so designed ; and, my friend’s husband going to Portsmouth the next day, where he had an office under government, she would be ready at any time. This we heard on the Thursday, and it was agreed that they should set off the Sunday following.

In

In the interim came Mr. John Hanger, to tell us of the death of his father; this was in the year 1773; but Mrs. Baddeley pleaded illness, and would not see him. I saw him, and persuaded myself, as he was now come to the title and estate, he would have it in his power to shew Mrs. Baddeley some gratitude for all that was past, and told him so; but he only laughed, and turned upon his heel, with "A good morning to you, Mrs. Steele." When I told Mrs. Baddeley of this, she said, "I don't believe I shall be any thing the better for him or his title. His vanity is raised, I dare say, but I cannot compliment him, when I consider his treatment of me. If he possessed a good heart, he would now come, and tell me he would atone for all his past behaviour, and do me justice; but he is a stranger to every thing that is right, and thinks of no one but himself."

Every thing was now left in my charge, not only respecting Mrs. Baddeley, but every thing belonging to my friend.

On Saturday night, she left town in the phaeton, took her man and her maid with her, but they were not let into the secret till they were

were at some distance from town. They went in the stage before them. We drove to my friend's house at Chelsea, where the phaeton was to be put up till their return, and the next morning they set off in a post-coach and four for Chester. I went with them as far as St. Alban's, where we parted, and I thought Mrs. Baddeley would have broke her heart; she sobbed and cried like a child, and I never thought she loved me till then. In short our parting was an affecting scene, for there was not a dry eye among us. She promised to write to me daily, and kept her word; her letters were directed to be left at the post-office till called for, and I thus travelled with her for she was very minute in all the accounts she gave me. She passed for the Honourable Mrs. Steele. In five days they reached Holyhead, and hired a packet to carry them to Dublin.

She had not been absent two days, before Mr. P. called, and enquired if I had any money for him, and where Mrs. Baddeley was gone. I told him she had gone to my house in Oxfordshire for a few days; and that as to money I was as bare as when he called last. He then enquired where Lord Melbourn was, and on my saying he was gone out of town for

for a fortnight, seemed much disappointed; and said, several drafts, he had accepted on Mrs. Baddeley's account, would be due in a day or two, and he did not know what he should do. I told him Lord Melbourne had promised us money on his return, and hoped, that would be time enough; he replied, if I could not help him to any sooner, it must be time enough; but, that it would put him to some inconveniences; and, on his Lordship's return, should he not give me any, voluntarily, I must ask him for some. I told him, I was under no apprehensions, respecting his bounty, for I had no doubt, but he would do as he always had done. He seemed satisfied with this, and left me.

During Mrs. Baddeley's absence, most of her friends called, to enquire after her, and among the rest Lord Coleraine, who was a troublesome visitant, whenever he came. He was more like a mad-man, than any thing else; vowing, he would never forgive me, if I did not tell him where Mrs. Baddeley was; that, see her he must, and would find her, if she was above ground; for, that he was wretched, and miserable without her. I told him she was not far off, but where she wished to see no one; and that I

was

was sure, if chance threw him in her way, she would not speak to him ; as she never could forget the injuries she had received from him. He replied, if I would not tell him, he would try if he could not find her out ; for, he would spare no expence ; and would hunt her to the world's end. He strove to bribe my servants, but it was to no purpose ; for we had agreed so, that, they were as much strangers to the place where she was, as his Lordship.

He enquired at every inn in town, to know whether any horses had been sent for to our house ; went down to my house near Henley, where he had some suspicion he should find her, and made all the enquiries, in that neighbourhood, he could.

He then came back again to me, told me where he had been, and the pains he had taken to find her ; I asked his Lordship, from whom he had his information, that she was in Oxfordshire ; he told me, he had been made acquainted that she was there, but, I found it was not true ; she had been there, I told him, but was now gone down to bathe in the sea..

He

He no sooner heard this, than off he flew to Brighthelmstonc, and not finding her there, was back with me the next day, saying, where he had been, and offered me five hundred pounds in bank-notes, for my own use, if I would tell him where he could find her. I told his Lordship that a bribe had no weight with me; that I would not tell him, and therefore, begged he would tease me no more. He cried, and swore, and raved like a mad-man, on which I left him to himself, and he soon went away, and I saw no more of him for three days.

In this time he travelled, night and day to Margate, Ramsgate, Southampton, Weymouth, and I know not where, in search of her. He then returned to me, informed me of his ill success, and entreated me as before, and offered me a thousand pounds. I then found myself under the necessity of declaring, by all that was good and sacred, that I would never tell him; and requested, he would come no more to my house, for that I would not be so troubled; it being her wish not to see him; and that she had secreted herself, for that very purpose. I asked him, as he was now so much in cash, whether, on condition of my telling him where she was, he would pay all her debts, which amounted to
near

near four thousand pounds, including what she owed me. He replied he had not money enough, or he would. "How much then," returned I, "will you pay towards them?" "Tell me," said his Lordship, "first where she is, and you shall then know." I told him, if he would give me his bond, to pay three thousand pounds, I would tell him, and that he should have six months allowed him to pay two thousand pounds of the money. He would do no such thing; "Then why," returned I, "did you offer me such a sum, and will not do as you ought, by Mrs. Baddeley, whom you profess so much to love? The thousand pounds you offered me, I will give to her; and, if you will add two thousand pounds more to it, you shall know where she is, but on no other terms. Now, if your Lordship values her, as you pretend to do, you would cheerfully embrace the proposal; but, permit me to say, at the same time, that unless you agree to it this day, an offer of ten times the sum to-morrow shall not open my lips." He said, I should have the thousand pounds he offered; but could give no more. At this I told him, I would not accept a shilling of him on that score; but, if he would pay me the money he owed me, I would take it, and thank him. This he would

would not do. I then gave him to understand, that what I had said, respecting her debts, was merely to try how far his value for her would extend; that in fact she was not in want of his assistance; but, that I saw plainly, if she had been, he would be the last person, that would stand forth to relieve her; that I requested, I might never see him again, and that if he called a hundred times, I would always be denied; at this he took himself away, angrily, saying, he should call and try, whether he could not see me, notwithstanding what I was pleased to say to the contrary.

He now, some way or other, found his way to the lady's house at Chelsea, and, by bribing the servants, got intelligence, that she was in Oxfordshire; though this he contradicted, saying, he had been there, and could hear nothing of her. The servants, who supposed she was there with their mistress, assured his Lordship, that they went together, and that they must be there. He then enquired for their master, and learned, he was at Portsmouth.

Now she had written two letters, left them with me for her husband, one to be sent each week, during, her absence; one of these letters I had
sent

sent the day before. His Lordship followed this letter the next day to Portsmouth, and told the lady's husband, that he was come in search of Mrs. Baddeley, who he was informed, was gone off to some distance from London, with his wife. "That is impossible," said the Gentleman, "for I received a letter from her this day dated Chelsea." Lord Coleraine, assured him, she was not there, and, if the letter was sent him, he was imposed upon; for, that he was at his house the day before, and that she had been gone some days. "Where is Mrs. Steele?" said the gentleman. "In Grafton-street," returned his Lordship, "and as obstinate as the devil; determined not to tell me where she is; but, by a fee to a man who assisted her coachman, I learned your lady was gone off with her." "Depend upon it, my Lord," returned the Gentleman, "you will find Mrs. Baddeley secreted at my house."

Lord Coleraine then offered him five hundred guineas, if he would go to town with him, and convince him of it. His reply was, "As the stores of Portsmouth-yard are wholly under my care, and I am obliged to attend the delivery of them, I cannot go for some days,"
"but

“ but I will write to my wife, and I dare say
 “ shall have an answer from her; and, as your
 “ Lordship seems so unhappy, you shall know
 “ from me what she says upon the occasion.”
 This being agreed on, his Lordship returned to
 town.

Finding by my servants, that Lord Coleraine
 meant to go to Portsmouth, in search of her;
 I thought it prudent, for my friend's sake, to
 go there also; I accordingly went, and request-
 ed that if Lord Coleraine, or any person from
 him, should enquire about Mrs. Baddeley, not
 to say that she was at his house at Chelsea; when
 she, in fact, was gone to be secreted from him.
 The Gentleman asked why he was not made ac-
 quainted with this before; and, then told me
 of Lord Coleraine's being with him, and what
 he had promised, in consequence of it. “ He
 “ would have persuaded me,” said he, “ that
 “ my wife was gone off, to some place or other,
 “ but he could not learn where; and, I was
 “ just going to write, to enquire into the mat-
 “ ter; for, had she dared to have done such a
 “ thing, without my knowledge, I never would
 “ forgive her.” “ Oh,” replied I, “ make
 “ yourself easy, for, I know your wife well,
 “ and am convinced she would not think of such
 “ a thing.”

"a thing. You must therefore, keep this affair a secret." He assured me he would.

I urged him to accompany me to town, knowing he could not, which he excused himself from doing, being tied by the leg, he said, for a month to come. Glad was I to hear this, though I pretended to the contrary; for, this Gentleman was a Dane, and of a jealous disposition, though he had very little cause for it; and, I should have been sorry, had he known his wife was from home. He desired me to leave his Lordship to him, and he would match him; for if he came again, he would say, they were gone to Tunbridge-wells. For, "I assure you, my dear Mrs. Steele," said he, "though I did not give much credit to his Lordship's tale, it made me rather uneasy; as, when a man is so far distant from home, there is no knowing what may happen."

I staid at Portsmouth that night, spent the evening with him; and in the morning, at parting, he wished me to tell his wife, to send him down ten pounds, by the coach, the next day. Having ten pounds in my pocket to spare, I begged him to take it, and I would receive it of

of his wife in town. This I did to prevent a discovery ; he took it kind and we parted.

In my way home, I called at my friend's house, at Chelsea, and found from the servants, that Lord Coleraine had been there and insisted on seeing Mrs. Baddeley, who he knew was in that house ; for, he had been at Portsmouth, and their master had told him so ; that, he ran up stairs, and finding the rooms locked, would not believe but she was there with their mistress, and that he said, he would be there again.

I told them, at their peril, not to let him in any more ; for whoever did, should be discharged. They assured me, one and all, that they would obey my directions, and should not have suffered him to go up stairs as he did, if he had not been a Lord, and thought he must not be affronted. “ You have nothing more to say,” replied I, “ should he call again, but, that your
“ mistress is from home ; and, has given strict
“ orders not to admit him ; and, should he ask
“ for Mrs. Baddeley, to tell him, she is not at
“ your house but gone, as she is determined
“ not to see him ; and then come and acquaint
“ me, with the result.”

On my return home, I found he had been there, told the servants, he had been at my house, near Henley, and, at Portsmouth, and had learned, Mrs. Baddeley was at Chelsea; that he had a message to deliver to me from Portsmouth, and must see me.

I sent to the Post-office, and received two letters from Mrs. Baddeley, from Lutterell's-town, in Ireland, saying, she was safe arrived at the seat of Colonel Lutterell; that the reception she met with, was greater even than she expected; and, that the Colonel's behaviour, and attention was so engaging, that she liked him prodigiously; that a Colonel Smith was there also on a visit; that the mansion was an elegant one, superbly furnished; that the Park, in which it stood, was a noble and extensive one; that, she wanted only my company, to complete her happiness; and that the whole party wished to see me, as soon as possible.

Whilst I was reading these letters, my maid came up and said, Lord Coleraine's servant was below, having a message to deliver me from his master. This man brought Lord Coleraine's compliments to me, and informed me, that his

master was convinced Mrs. Baddeley was se-
creted at Chelsea, and that he was determined
to see her, if he lost his life in the attempt:
that, he was there not an hour ago, and found
the doors all locked, by order of the lady of the
house, and no admittance for him; and, that
he was informed Mrs. Baddeley was gone,
which he knew to be false.

I told the servant that his master should be-
ware molesting people in their own houses;
that, the lady had applied to her attorney in
consequence of his behaviour, and I had no
doubt, but an action would be brought against
him.

The servant, who was a complete Irishman,
swore by Jasus, that he believed his master
was mad for Mrs. Baddeley; that, he would
not let them rest day or night, but was every
where flinging about after her, and the devil-
a-bit of ease could they get; that his Lord
was now sure she was at Chelsea, and it was a
pity that where there was so much love, there
should be so little satisfaction; that, for sartain,
according to what he could larn, he did de-
serve to feel a little bit of uneasiness for his
tricks; but yet, God bless him, there was no
necessity

necessity for killing the poor gentleman outright. "Tell your Lord from me," replied I, "that Mrs. Baddeley, determined not to see him, is gone to some other place; and if he persists.—" "Do, dear lady," returned the man, "put what you have to say on a piece of paper, for I dare as well eat my tongue as tell him." This I refused to do, and he went off with "Your sarvant, good lady. If you had sent a kinder message to my master, you would not have repented it."

As soon as he was gone, I sat down and wrote to Mrs. Baddeley, every thing about Lord Coleraine, excepting what related to her friend's husband; requesting directions how to act, saying, she must not expect me, till I had seen Lord Melbourne, and could some way or other settle matters with Mr. P. I took this letter to Lombard-street, and directed it, under cover, to Colonel Lutterell. Whilst I was gone, Mr. P. called, and left word, he had something of consequence to inform me of, and would call again in the evening. I supposed it was about money matters; but, when he came, found myself deceived.

Lord Coleraine had hunted him out, told him a long tale of Mrs. Baddeley, that she was gone off, and no one knew where, and asked him if he knew where she was; he told his Lordship, she was at my house near Henley, which Lord Coleraine contradicted, saying, he had been there.

“And now,” with a very serious face, said he, “it is time, Mrs. Steele, I should ask you where she really is.” I replied, “Safe enough from Lord Coleraine, who she is determined not to see, and I commend her for it; for, I made a proposal to him, that if he would pay her debts, I would acquaint him where she was; and, if he had such a wish to see her, as he seems to have, I doubted not but that he would embrace the terms. This he refused, and I then turned it off, and said, ‘I made the proposal only to try him.’” “I am convinced, Sir,” continued I, “that he must have some ill design, or he would advance some money for her, when he could offer me a thousand pounds to tell him where she was.”

Mr. P. replied, that, considering the treatment she had received from him, he ought to advance

advance her some money; and, that I did right to keep him in the dark; but, there was no reason why I should keep him so. I told him, I had no reason to conceal it from him, only, that she was removing so from place to place, to elude Lord Coleraine, that she scarce knew where she was herself. Mr. P. commended her for this, but, owned his Lordship's account had surprized him, though he was now satisfied, and would say no more on the subject; only wished Lord Melbourne would, according to promise, let her have some money, when he came to town, or he should be greatly inconvenienced.

I told him, there was but little doubt of it, and he seemed contented; but, I now plainly saw I had sufficient to encounter, and was far from being happy, having a thousand things to perplex me, and no one to advise with, or open my mind to; for, I don't know any one comfort so great, as to have a friend to unbother one's self to, in difficulties, though that friend can afford no assistance. I was daily called on by Mrs. Baddeley's friends of fashion, but, these were not such persons as I could talk with on our private concerns.

The next post brought me a long and affectionate letter from Mrs. Baddeley ; containing, to my great surprize, a resolution, on her part, to stay and end her days where she was, and waiting only my answer on the subject, to determine her ; that, she was more happy than she could express, but must have me with her ; for a palace would be a dungeon without me ; that Colonel Lutterell said he should be proud to have me with her ; that, I had only to say the word, and all things would be made easy to me. “ I will then,” said she, “ give up all
“ my friends in London, and shall have no
“ thing to do with married men, for the Co-
“ lonel is a single one: with him I have done,
“ what cannot be undone, and, I do not re-
“ pent it; for, he is possessed of a good heart,
“ and I love him well enough to live happy
“ with him for life. Was I a princess, he
“ could not pay me more respect than he
“ does; for, I have not a wish or a thought,
“ but he studies to gratify ; and, as I am de-
“ termined to be grateful on my part, no-
“ thing shall take me from him, unless you
“ tell me you will not live in this country ;
“ so, send me your dear answer, and I will
“ then tell you some news that will please
“ you.”

Surprized

Surprized as I was at this letter, I took a day or two to weigh the subject in my mind, and wished, before I wrote an answer, to see Lord Melbourne, as I should know then better how to act.

As he did not, however, come in two or three days, I wrote her word, that she had ever found me ready to comply with any thing in reason, that would afford her pleasure, or contribute to her happiness ; and, as to her present request, I had no objection, as soon as matters could be settled here, which must first be done, and begged her directions and advice for that purpose ; that I had not seen Lord Melbourne ; that Mr. P. was pressing for money ; and, that Lord Coleraine still persevered in his pursuit of her ; but, not a word did I say of his application at Chelsea, or at Portsmouth. Indeed, his Lordship was truly troublesome. Like Marplot, he never was at rest. He came, and told me, he had been at Tunbridge-wells, a friend of his having said she was there. This intelligence I knew he had from Portsmouth, though I took no notice of it.

I told his Lordship, that it was of no moment to me where he had been, and that I should say no more on the subject.

He declared he would find Mrs. Baddeley, if he was obliged to travel to the devil for that purpose. My reply was, "Go where you please, but don't tease and trouble me." He swore he would be even with me before he died.

I told him I disregarded his threats, and advised him not to take any unjustifiable steps, for if he did, he would certainly repent it; that from a man of his rank and title, I had reason to expect the behaviour of a gentleman, and was sorry he did not know himself.

He now grew outrageous, d—m'd his rank and title, said, neither these nor all the world, were any objects to him, nor did he care what befell him; that he did not value Mrs. Baddeley so much as I might suppose; but he wished to see her for reasons he best knew, and was determined to find her, if she was living. Tired with his conversation, I went up stairs and left him.

Three weeks past, and no sight of Lord Melbourne. He was not come to town; but I received plenty of letters from Ireland, and one in answer to my last, saying, I had no objecti-

ons

ons to come to her, if she enabled me to act right in London.

In this letter, she enclosed the following to Lord Melbourne, which I was to convey to him, and let her know the result :

“ My dear Lord,

“ I am hurt to be under the necessity
“ of laying before your Lordship, the state of
“ my affairs ; yet, it is now unavoidable.——
“ Mr. P. is become tiresome for want of mo-
“ ney, having paid large sums on my account,
“ and I cannot bear to be so urged as I am by
“ him. In consequence of which, I shall re-
“ main out of town, until I hear from you, or
“ that you have done, as far as you think pro-
“ per, to discharge what I owe. You may
“ arrange this matter with Mrs. Steele,
“ who can act with Mr. P. as well as my-
“ self. Your compliance with this, will oblige,

“ Your's,

“ Ever in affection,

“ Sophia Baddeley.”

Oxfordshire,

Thursday Morning.

M 5

I was

I was pleased at the receipt of this letter, as I knew it would answer two purposes, one with my Lord, and the other to shew Mr. P. who was now impatient; as it would convince him of her wish to pay him, and her endeavours to that end. I accordingly sent for him, and shewed him the letter. He seemed pleased with it, and said, "I find then, she is at your house in Oxfordshire. Had you any letters with it?" I told him not, that Mrs. Baddeley hated writing, and that she had sent it by the maid. This satisfied him for the present.

He expressed a wish, that Lord Coleraine could be prevailed on to advance some money; but, as I told him, Mrs. Baddeley did not wish to be under any obligations to him, and I could not venture without her permission, to take even ten thousand pounds, if it was offered; he begged pardon for hinting it, only as he thought he might make her an offer, in this mad fit of love, it was a justice I owed myself to accept it, in order to discharge Mrs. Baddeley's debt to me. I replied, "That sooner than betray any confidence reposed in me, I would lose every shilling. I do expect a pistol some day from this mad-man, Lord Coleraine, and he may fire it, and put an end to my existence;

but

“but he shall never know from me where she
 “is.” “What,” said Mr. P. “not for a
 “thousand pounds?” “No, Sir, nor for ten
 “thousand,” returned I, warmly, “nor to
 “save my life, if my life was at stake.” “Tell
 “me” said he, “and I will take the thousand
 “pounds for you.” “No, Sir,” said I,
 “not now I know your mind.” “Is she
 “in Oxfordshire?” asked he. “Ask me
 “no more, Sir,” replied I, “for I will
 “not inform you.” “Well,” said Mr. P.
 “you are much to blame.” I begged his par-
 don, said, I did not see the matter in the
 same light with him; that, whilst I thought I
 was acting right by my friend, I was enjoying
 a serenity of mind; and, I would do nothing to
 discompose it. He still went on.—“Think,
 “Mrs. Steele, what a thousand pounds is, and
 “think how idle you are in such resolves. To
 “be plain with you, I have seen his Lordship
 “this day; and he has promised me he will
 “give it you: and, after all, Mrs. Baddeley,
 “need not see him, she can easily be denied;
 “and, if she *does* see him, what harm can arise
 “between two, who have known each other so
 “long. Don’t be so obstinate—let me beg it
 “as a favour.”

I told

I told him, I should be happy to oblige him in any thing reasonable, but could not in his present request, and nothing should urge me.

When he found me resolute, he dropped the subject, saying, I was my own enemy, and that he would go to him, for that he was now waiting for him.

I was not well pleased at Mr. P's. interference, and told him, as he knew my mind fully on this subject, if he ever asked me again to tell him where she was, I would not see him afterwards.

He assured me, upon his honour, he would never trouble me again upon the subject; begged my pardon for saying so much as he had done, and politely took his leave.

The post-man brought me a letter from a friend at Salisbury, and wished to see me; it was to tell me, that a gentleman had been with him, and offered him a guinea, if he would bring him every letter addressed to me through the post; that he might only see the hand-writing of the direction, and the post-mark, which he refused. I gave the man half a crown for his

his honesty, and told him he had my full consent to take that letter to him, and see how far his curiosity would carry him; but, not to suffer him to open it; and, that he might take the guinea for himself, but that he must not say I knew of it; and when he had so done, would have him come and tell me. He did, and this gentleman was Lord Coleraine; and, I believe no man but Lord Coleraine, would have had such a thought. The postman got the guinea.

His Lordship said, that was not the hand he wished to see, but he took down the mark of *Salisbury*, and returned him the letter, with a promise of a guinea for every letter he should so bring.

This curiosity cost Lord Coleraine a journey, (and this I foresaw) for he set off the next day for *Salisbury*, and enquired at all the different Inns.

On his return, he told this to Mr. P. from whom I afterwards had it. I saw the propriety of not having my letters directed home. I do think I was myself watched; as I never went out but I had a follower, except to the post-office;

office; which I took care to prevent, by taking water at Whitehall, when I could see if any boat was after me. Thus did I escape any one's knowing when I carried my letters, and as none at the General Post-office knew me, and they were not addressed to me in my own name, there was no danger of their stopping, or examining any letters of mine, had they been so disposed.

Lord Coleraine made no secret of his pursuits, for he told all his friends, and all Mrs. Baddeley's, that she was gone off, and was not to be found. This was but a nine days wonder. Some came to enquire of me what grounds Lord Coleraine had for his report; but as I refused to answer any thing, where his Lordship was concerned, I was not importuned. I informed her friends she was well, and would be at home shortly, and happy to see them; but, that she did not chuse to say where she was, that Lord Coleraine might not be troublesome to her. This was always a cause of laughter, that poor Gaby should be so thrown out in his pursuit.

The post now brought me a letter from Mrs. Baddeley, in answer to mine; wherein I acquainted

quainted her with the pains Lord Coleraine had taken to find her out, and the offers he made me, to say where she was. She thanked me for my conduct, said, neither Gaby nor his title was of any moment to her now; that she had suffered so much, on his account, as not to wish to see him more, and hoped his being kept in the dark would be a sufficient mortification for his cruel treatment: that she was then happy, and would, if possible, keep herself so; and that she despised him as much at that time, as ever she loved him.

Lord Coleraine kept up a correspondence with my friend, that lived at Portsmouth, who began to be uneasy about his wife, having written to her and received no answer. The letter he wrote to her, I answered, and told him, that Mrs. Baddeley was so closely pursued by Lord Coleraine, that she thought proper to go a little way out of town to avoid him, and had prevailed on his wife to accompany her; that she would be back in a few days, when I would deliver her his letter: that, in her absence, I looked after his house and servants, and that if he was in want of any cash, I would remit him what he had occasion for. He wrote back to me, blamed his wife for leaving his house without his knowledge,

ledge, and peremptorily insisted on my saying where she was, unless she returned in two days, from the date of his letter. This put me to my wit's end, to know what answer to give him. In the interim came Lord Melbourne, enquiring for his dear love, and on my saying she was out of town, desired I would go and fetch her, for he must see her immediately. I told him she was a long way off. "Where?" asked he. "At Scarborough," said I. "And who is with her?" said his Lordship. I told him a female relation of mine, my daughter, her maid, and a man. He looked angry and disappointed, and enquired the reason of her going. I told his Lordship, that it was to avoid Lord Coleraine, who was in pursuit of her, swearing like a madman, that she should live with him, and him only; "and if your Lordship knew," continued I, "how much he infested this house, you would pity me, and say, she had acted properly." He asked me, "why I did not keep the door shut, and have her denied?" "Denied," cried I, "my Lord, a denial was to little purpose; he would watch at the door like a dog, and whenever it was opened, would slip in, and go up stairs. He offered me a thousand pounds to say where she was, and I was fearful he would

"would bribe my servants, to let him in at im-
 "proper times." Then, why did I let her go
 without me? he said. I told his Lordship,
 that owing to his staying in the country, longer
 than was expected, and not having given her
 any money, Mr. P. was very pressing for some,
 and his frequent visits on that score, made Mrs.
 Baddeley unhappy; and having some fears on
 the subject, this together, with a wish to get out
 of Lord Coleraine's way, induced her to leave
 town, and to keep things quiet at home, was my
 reason for not going with her. He enquired
 how much money Mr. P. wanted. I replied,
 "What your Lordship can spare." He said,
 he had no money with him, but would consider
 of it, and see me again in a day or two. I took
 this opportunity to give him Mrs. Baddeley's
 letter. He read it, put it in his pocket, and
 said she was in Oxfordshire. "Yes, my Lord,"
 returned I, "when that letter was written, she
 "had been there a fortnight; but Lord Cole-
 "raine found her out, and went after her; and
 "this induced her to retire further off."
 "Well," replied his Lordship, "send for her
 "home; this letter is for money, and money
 "she shall have. Sure she must be a good deal
 "in debt, to go away on that account!" I said,
 "she was, and that his Lordship's bounty to
 "her,

“ her, had led her into it ; whereas, his having withdrawn his hand of late, she was scarce able to support the expence of house-keeping, independent of her dress, and other things.” “ Well,” said he again, “ send for her home, and enquire, what is the least sum Mr. P. can shift with. I will see, what I can do to extricate her.” I told him I would, and we parted.

As soon as he was gone, I sent for Mr. P. and talked with him on the subject ; he informed me, he could not do with less than one thousand five hundred pounds ; but if Lord Melbourne thought that more than he could spare, he desired me to say, he would make shift with one thousand pounds ; but that was the least, and that he must have more in a little time, for he was very short of cash.

I flattered myself now that matters would be made easy by Lord Melbourne ; for though I had no expectation that he would discharge the whole, yet as Mr. P. had undertaken to settle all she owed, and would be satisfied with a thousand pounds, I trusted all would be well on this account. But the misfortune was, that though Lord Melbourne came, and though I told

told him what Mr. P. had said, he did not keep his word ; his Lordship's answer was, that Mr. P. must wait *his* time ; that the town was full of Mrs. Baddeley's elopement ; that different conjectures were passed, and that Lord Coleraine, from what I told him, might spread those reports he heard. I told his Lordship that I was sorry I had said any thing to Mr. P. on the subject, for that now he would be more out of humour. Lord Melbourne said, he did not regard his humour, that he must wait, and should wait.

I then hinted the expence of Mrs. Baddeley's journies, and the time she was absent from home ; but not a guinea did he offer me ; said however, in a little time, he would do every thing she might wish ; and he was sorry it did not suit him at present.

To keep Mr. P. quiet, however, I borrowed three hundred pounds, and this, with the two hundred I had, made five hundred pounds. I then sent for him, told him Lord Melbourne was at present so circumstanced, that he could not advance Mrs. Baddeley any money ; but that having five hundred pounds of my own, if that would assist him it was at his service, and

and that I would try and do better for him soon. He seemed well pleased with this, but said, that Lord Melbourne did not behave well, and if he was Mrs. Baddeley, he would see him, at the devil before he would return to him, unless he first paid every debt she owed; that since I had undertaken her affairs, his Lordship had acted d—n'd shabbily; and that if I would take his advice, it would be to persuade her, to stay where she was; which he should apprehend would mortify him, and bring him to compliance. "The words of these Lords," continued he, "are worth nothing; and I am of
"opinion, that whatever he does, he will do
"with a meanness you little expect. I am
"quite hurt to take this money of you, know-
"ing the good disposition with which you
"offer it; but my want of cash is such, that
"I must in this instance run counter to my
"feelings and my natural temper." I then asked him if I should write to Mrs. Baddeley, and advise her not to come to town for some days? He replied, "Do; and should you
"be in want of money, send to me, and
"you shall have it, or any thing else in my
"power to accommodate you with; for I
"shall never forget this civility of yours.—
"As to his Lordship, he would not care if I
"was

"was in a jail." I did not tell him how indifferent Lord Melbourne had expressed himself concerning him, for he was angry enough without it. He took his leave, urging me to write to her, and, if possible, prevail with her to stay some little time where she was.

I now received a letter from my friend's husband, begging by the return of post, to know where his wife was, and where he might find her, for see her he must, as Lord Coleraine had made him very uneasy. I was much at a loss how to act, or what to say; I had told a good many untruths already, and I found I should be obliged to tell many more. Thus does good nature and a friendly disposition draw a person into a variety of disagreeable situations; but I had promised Mrs. Baddeley I would not say where she was, and I was determined to keep my word with her, at the expence of every thing. Had I written word to Portsmouth, saying where she was, Lord Coleraine would soon have known it; and had I refused to send a proper answer, or send an evasive one, his resentment might have carried him to improper lengths; as a foreigner, he might have left his wife and returned to his own country.

I, there-

I, therefore, suffered one post to slip, and then wrote him word, that Mrs. Baddeley and his wife were at Brighthelmstone, not supposing he would go there.

On the receipt of my letter, however, he set off for that place, where he sent for Lord Coleraine; but not finding them there, they agreed to give each other the earliest intelligence, in case either of them found out where they were. This I was afterwards informed of. My friend's husband went off post to Margate, and Lord Coleraine to Weymouth, in pursuit of them; the ladies having once said they would go shortly to one of those places.

On this gentleman's return to London, he came to me in a most violent rage, and swore he would larn his wife *description*, (he meant *scripture*) and would beat her, and make her obedient to his will. I laughed within my teeth exceedingly, and not making any reply, he vowed, with many oaths, that if I did not immediately tell him where his wife was, he would blow my brains out, for he had come prepared, and had pistols in his pocket. "Come
" then,"

“ then,” said I, “ pull out your pistols ; give
“ me one of them, and let me have a fair
“ chance for my life, and I will forget my
“ sex, and fire with you, as long as I can
“ keep my feet, and you are able to load
“ them.”

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

MRS. SOPHIA WADSWORTH.

My dear Mr. Garrison, I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am glad to hear that you are well. I will do my best to keep my feet and you are able to read.

10 JA 67

Yours truly, MRS. SOPHIA WADSWORTH.